

Gorbachev to brief Bush on contacts

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev will send a letter to U.S. President George Bush on a high-ranking Soviet envoy's recent visit to Iraq, his spokesman said Tuesday. Vitaly Ignatenko told a news conference the outcome of the visit last week by Presidential Council member Yevgeny Primakov gave reason for hope that the Gulf crisis would be settled. But Ignatenko declined to give details of Primakov's letter to Bush, which is expected to be sent on Wednesday. The Soviet Union's 5,000-strong contingent of technicians would be brought home before their contracts expired. The Kremlin had said earlier Moscow, one of Baghdad's closest allies and biggest arms suppliers before the Gulf crisis erupted, has allied itself with the international condemnation of Iraq's annexation of Kuwait. But it has stopped of sending troops to join the massive buildup of Western and Arab forces confronting Iraq.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى.

Kuwaiti speaker calls for unity

NICOSIA (R) — The speaker of Kuwait's parliament urged Kuwaitis Tuesday to avoid controversial issues when a people's congress meets in Saudi Arabia this week. The Kuwait News Agency, KUNA, quoted Abdul Aziz Al Masaid as saying such issues should be avoided or postponed until the conference's objectives — liberating Kuwait and rallying behind its legitimate leadership — were realized. Masaid, speaker of an essentially toothless assembly elected less than two months before Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait, did not specify what issues he was referring to. But there were widespread calls both before and after the election for greater democracy in Kuwait and a relaxation of the ruling Al Sabah family's hold on the seats of power. "Kuwait is one family. There cannot be difference between its members over Kuwait's public interests," Masaid, publisher of Kuwait's now-suspended Al Rai Al zam daily, told KUNA. The venue of the three-day meeting opening Saturday has yet to be disclosed. It will be held under the title "Liberation — our slogan, course and aim," according to an earlier report by KUNA.

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King receives Yemeni message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received a message from Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh on the Gulf crisis and Arab and international efforts to reach a peaceful settlement to the region's problems. The message was delivered by the Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Idrisi, during an audience with King Hussein. The audience was attended by His Majesty's Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mndar Adnan, King Hussein's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Information Minister and acting Foreign Minister Ibrahim Izzeddine as well as Yemeni ambassador to Jordan. Idrisi arrived here Monday evening.

Algeria: Purely Arab solution in Gulf is impossible

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian President Chadli Benjedid has said a purely Arab solution to the Gulf crisis was no longer possible and others had to be involved in a peace bid. Benjedid, interviewed on Algerian television, said Algeria was trying to help solve the conflict along with the other four states of the Arab Maghreb Union. "We say now there must be an Arab solution but not only Arab," he said. "Maybe in the beginning the solution could have been Arab, but things have developed and the Arabs are no longer alone in the field. To solve this problem it is necessary to go through the Arabs but also other parties."

Syrian troops raid Hizbollah homes

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian troops raided homes in west and south Beirut Tuesday, arresting an unidentified number of gunmen and seizing weapons, police reported. The operation was launched three days after rival Shi'ite factions clashed in south Beirut, killing two people and wounding three. Saturday's fighting between the pro-Iranian Hizbollah and the Syrian-backed Amal militia was quickly contained by Syrian troops. Tuesday's operation was a "pre-emptive move by the Syrians to prevent renewed clashes between Amal and Hizbollah," a police spokesman said.

Rescue ship returning with most of its food

NEW DELHI (AP) — A cargo ship which brought 11,000 tons of relief supplies to Iraq for Indian refugees is returning with most of the food, officials said Tuesday. The officials said the supplies were unneeded since most of the refugees have been evacuated from Iraq and Kuwait. Only 2,000 tons of food had been required, they said. India, after much lobbying, received permission from the United Nations Security Council last month to break the embargo against oil supplies to Iraq.

Syria to get Japanese aid

AMMAN (R) — Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama announced the Gulf crisis with his Syrian counterpart Farouk Al Qadhi Tuesday and pledged to extend economic aid to Syria. Japanese sources said. Tokyo agreed in principle to extend economic aid to Syria after Damascus settles a current debt of \$20 million, Japanese officials said. The aid would settle its debts and pave the way for more aid, the officials said. They gave no figures on the promised new aid.

Iranian hardliners want TV debate

COSIA (R) — Iranian hardliners challenged their moderate rival Tuesday to a television debate on the U.S. military presence in the Gulf and other foreign policy issues. Deputy Yaddollah Eslami called for open debates on radio and television to settle major differences between the hardline and moderate factions in parliament, after the hardliners were excluded from elections Monday for a key clerical assembly.

Israel seals off Haram Al Sharif

Protests spread to Nazareth, Galilee

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israel sealed the Haram Al Sharif complex for a day and imposed sweeping curfews in the occupied territories Tuesday to head off Palestinian protests over the massacre of at least 30 Palestinians at the complex.

While large parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip were under curfews and village closures, protests erupted in Arab Jerusalem and in Nazareth.

In Umm Tuba on the southern outskirts of Jerusalem, two border policemen were stabbed with a screwdriver by Arabs they had stopped at a checkpoint. As the car drove away the policemen

opened fire, hitting two occupants, police said. None of the injuries was serious, police said. Police fired tear-gas to disperse dozens of activists who blocked roads in Nazareth with rocks and garbage cans, an Arab reporter said. Masked youths shouting pro-Israeli slogans smashed a department store's windows and beat shoppers.

Police seized the keys to the gates of Haram Al Sharif, Islam's third holiest site, and fired tear-gas at Muslims who tried to break through their cordon, an Arab reporter at the scene said.

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Izzeddine summons big power envoys, seeks swift action

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Tuesday lodged a strongly-worded protest with the U.N. Security Council over Monday's massacre of at least 30 Palestinians by Israeli forces in occupied Jerusalem and sought swift action towards protecting the Palestinian people living in the occupied territories.

Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddine, who is acting foreign minister, summoned the ambassadors of the United States, France, the Soviet Union and Britain and the Chinese charge d'affaires and in a meeting with them voiced the deep concern of the Jordanian government and people over Monday's killings.

The massacre "should prompt the international community to focus on the Palestinian problem in a way that reflects the international responsibility towards the problem," the minister told the diplomats.

Izzeddine expressed hope that the Palestinian problem would receive the "same enthusiasm that other issues are receiving when discussed at the Security Council."

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No choice for Israel but to leave Arab land — Iraq

Baghdad announces Al Hijra missile

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein told Israel Tuesday that it has no choice but to leave Arab territories, and said that Baghdad possessed a new long-range missile that could strike targets hundreds of kilometers away.

In a message read over Baghdad Radio responding to Monday's killing in Arab Jerusalem of at least 30 Palestinians, Saddam said that Iraq's new missile would strike "when the time of reckoning comes."

"You have no choice but to leave the lands of Palestine and Muslim shrines," he said in the 15-minute statement read for him by an announcer.

The new missile is called the Al Hijra (stone), apparently named to honour young Palestinians in the occupied territories who are confronting the Israelis with stones.

Addressing Israel, Saddam said:

"The faithful Palestinians faced up to you... with stones which no power on earth can withhold from those who wish to use them."

Saddam said that at a meeting of the military's general command, "the minister of industry and military industrialisation whispered in my ear... that God willing, the stones can be hurled to their targets at distances of hundreds of kilometres from their point of launching."

"They are the stones of the new missile which the Iraqis have invented with the help of almighty God and which can be launched from somewhere in the land of Iraq to reach the targets of evil when the day of reckoning comes," he said.

"There are plenty of stones in the land of Iraq," Saddam added.

The statement gave no details on how many of the reported missiles Iraq possesses, when they were or will

be deployed or what kind of warhead they can carry.

It was not possible to obtain independent verification of Saddam's claim to have developed a new missile with a range that could also reach Saudi Arabia, where U.S. troops are deploying.

But Don Kerr, a weapons analyst at London's International Institute for Strategic Studies, said such a claim by Iraq would not be extraordinary. "Iraq has had considerable success with surface-to-surface missiles, mostly derivatives of the Soviet-made Scud," Kerr told the AP in a telephone interview.

Iraq announced in 1988 that it had developed a cluster missile with a longer range than any other weapon of its type.

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Bush: Killing of Palestinians has no impact on Arab front in Gulf

Moscow condemns bloodbath, urges probe

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. President George Bush said Tuesday he did not think Israel's role in Monday's massacre of Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem would jeopardise the fragile Arab coalition in the Gulf. But he said Israel forces should have acted "with more restraint."

Bush also declared that Iraq should not use "this unfortunate incident" to try to link its takeover of Kuwait with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Asked at a news conference if the flareup would endanger the Arab coalition confronting Iraq, Bush said, "I don't think it could do that."

But, he added, "let me just express my strong feelings about this, my sorrow at this tragedy. It is particularly disturbing because of the sanctity of the holy places. Violence shattered all this."

"Israeli security forces need to be better prepared for such situations, need to act with greater restraint,"

Bush said. "Now, what is needed most of all is calm on both sides. We want to see the longstanding policy of open access to holy places preserved."

Bush renewed an earlier warning that Iraq should not attempt to justify its "illegal invasion of Kuwait by trying to tie it in to the Palestine question."

Iraq's efforts to do this are "not working," according to Bush.

"The Arab World is united, almost united, against Iraq," the president said. "If Iraq tries to use this unfortunate incident to link the two issues, I do not think it will be successful."

The Soviet Union condemned the killing and said the United Nations should show the same concern for the Palestinians as it has for Kuwait.

President Mikhail Gorbachev's official spokesman, Vitaly Ignatenko, said the bloodbath on Monday was "a serious crime. Every time we face

such criminal acts we return to basic things. We need a global decision, not a bit by bit solution, to the Arab-Israeli conflict."

A separate statement by the Soviet Foreign Ministry called for a special U.N. investigation into the deaths of the Palestinian protesters at the hands of Israeli police.

"The report of a new outbreak of violence on Palestinian soil causes deep concern in the Soviet Union," said the statement.

"Firmly condemning this action by the Israeli authorities, the USSR thinks that the U.N. Security Council should manifest the same unanimity and consistency in its approach to the situation in the occupied territories that was effectively demonstrated by this organisation in relation to the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait," the statement said.

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Israel under international fire

Combined agency dispatches

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY Tuesday led international denunciation of Israel for Monday's massacre of at least 30 Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem.

A strongly-worded statement issued in Rome by the 12-state bloc said: "The tragic events in Jerusalem have once again highlighted the need to solve the Palestinian problem in a just manner" and called for a U.N. peace conference on the Middle East.

"The community and its member states deplore and consider unacceptable the excessive use of force by Israeli occupying troops in putting down Palestinian demonstrations," the statement said.

The 12 said the massacre was part of a series of repeated violations of international law by Israel, particularly over the protection of civilians.

"The community and its member states reaffirm their commitment to a just, global and lasting solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict and support the principle of calling an international peace conference under U.N. auspices," it said.

In Strasbourg, Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis expressed

ed concern that the killings could prove a setback for attempts to resolve the Gulf crisis.

Israel's bloodiest crackdown on civil unrest in 23 years could threaten the international solidarity in condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, he said.

"This could call into question the international cohesion we have managed to achieve so far and this has repercussions for the whole of the Gulf crisis," he said.

"I am very worried about the impact of these events on public opinion in various Arab states," he added.

De Michelis, who currently chairs the European Community's council of ministers, spoke at a news conference at the European parliament.

De Michelis said he was deeply regretted the violence, which he described as "totally unjustified," but rebuffed any linkage of the Gulf crisis with the Palestinian uprising.

"The Gulf crisis had to be given priority and has to be solved as a separate issue," De Michelis said.

"(Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein's position makes it very difficult to solve problems such as the Palestinian question," he added.

In Brussels, the EC's Executive Commission expressed dismay at the

high casualties inflicted by the Israelis and condemned violence and provocation on both sides.

"The commission calls on all parties involved to show moderation so as to allow a return to calm and the effective launch of a long-overdue peace process," a statement said.

The bloodbath in Jerusalem will serve the cause of Iraq because the international community would not address the "legitimate concerns" of Palestinians, France's foreign minister said.

Roland Dumas, in a radio interview, said the killings will bolster Iraq's attempt to become "champion of the Arab struggle against Israel."

Dumas said he feared further violence unless there was a substantive response to "the legitimate demand by the Palestinian people to have a state and the power in this state, while respecting the security of Israel."

He echoed President Francois Mitterrand's call Monday for an international conference on the Middle East. China also condemned the killing.

"China has always supported the just struggle of the Palestinian people. We strongly condemn violence

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Arab states slam Israel

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI CAME under fierce Arab denunciation Tuesday over the massacre of at least 30 Palestinians in Arab Jerusalem on Monday by Israeli forces.

In Tunis, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has asked the Arab League to arrange an urgent meeting of Arab foreign ministers to discuss the killing, the PLO news agency Wafa said.

PLO foreign affairs chief Farouk Kaddoumi has asked Italy, France and Britain to support a PLO proposal that the U.N. Security Council send a fact-finding mission and U.N. troops to protect Palestinians in the occupied territories, it added.

The U.N. Security Council should then prepare for an international conference on Middle East peace, it added.

sources said they hoped the Arab League meeting would take place in Tunis within two days.

The league, deeply divided over the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait and the Gulf states' decision to call in U.S. troops, is in the process of moving out in Tunis and back to Cairo.

It was not immediately clear if some Gulf states, angry at the Tunisian government's position on the Gulf conflict, would agree to attend a meeting in Tunis.

The league earlier Tuesday made a similar call for urgent Security Council measures to protect the people of the occupied territories from a repetition of Monday's violence in Jerusalem.

The league described the killings as "a horrific massacre" and accused the Israeli government of giving Jewish extremists a free hand to shed Palestinian blood to drive them out of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

U.N. protection should last until a U.N.-sponsored peace conference took place to arrange for Israeli withdrawal and the creation of an independent Palestinian state, the league added.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has also called for an urgent meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Jerusalem Committee, and official source said Tuesday.

Arafat's adviser Bassam Abu Sharif sent a request for the meeting to King Hassan of Morocco, chairman of the 15-member committee.

The PLO leader called on the committee to "intervene on behalf of the population of the Holy City who are fighting not only for themselves but also to preserve the honour and dignity of all Arabs and Muslims."

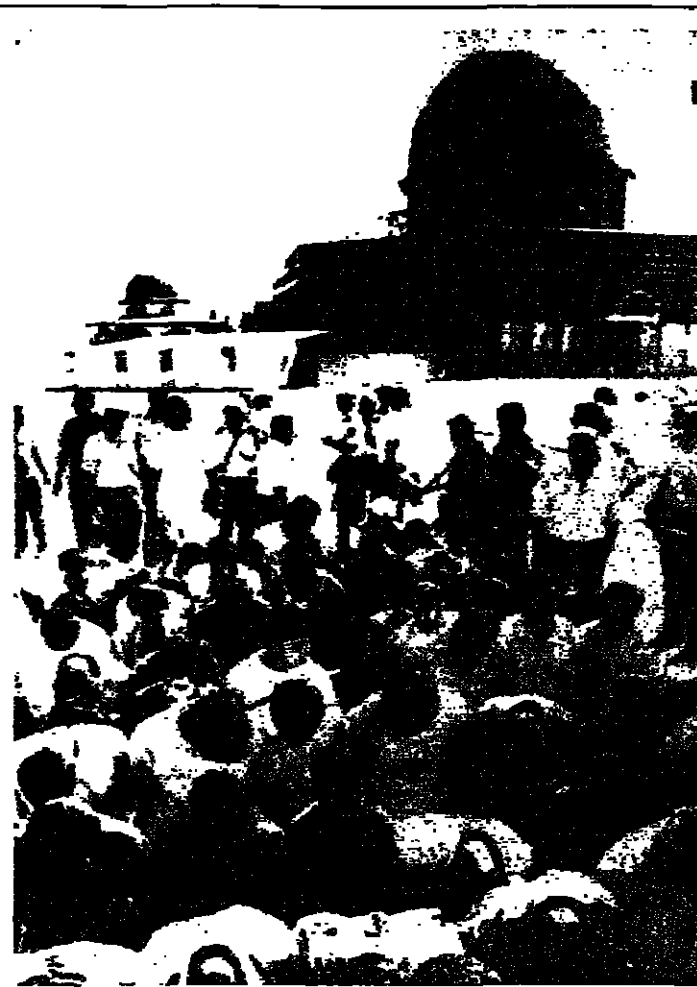
Egypt expressed "deep concern" over the Jerusalem violence and called for self-restraint.

Cairo Television interrupted its regular programme to announce a presidential statement warning that further clashes could "lead to grave consequences in the present critical circumstances engulfing the area."

The strongly-worded statement was issued by President Hosni Mubarak's office, and not the Foreign Ministry as usual. It reflected Egypt's fears of a possible outbreak of Arab-Israeli hostilities at a time Cairo is leading Arab opposition to the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The statement said Israel's "savage repressive measures exceeded all limits" and added that the Jewish

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Israeli forces detain dozens of Palestinians in front of Al Aqsa Mosque after Monday's massacre

Amnesty hits Israel, calls for inquiry

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amnesty International called Tuesday for a judicial public inquiry into the killings Monday of Palestinian civilians by Israeli forces in Jerusalem and other areas of the occupied territories.

"Such an inquiry has become a matter of the greatest urgency in view of the grim pattern of killings of Palestinian civilians by the security forces since December 1987," Amnesty International said.

In a text sent to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Amnesty International reiterated its fears that the official Israeli guidelines for opening fire may allow unjustifiable killings and that the process of official investigations of alleged abuses related to such guidelines is inadequate.

Amnesty International also reiterated its concerns about the deliberate misuse of tear-gas which may be lethal when fired in confined spaces, especially hospitals.

Amnesty International said a public inquiry should be initiated immediately to take evidence from as many eyewitnesses as possible. The inquiry should be asked to reach detailed recommendations aimed at ensuring that the use of force, specifically firearms, is allowed only when

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Cabinet denounces Israel's 'brutal crime,' urges balanced U.N. move

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Tuesday described as a brutal crime Monday's massacre of Palestinians at the Haram Al Sharif complex in occupied Jerusalem and said it had instructed Jordan's U.N. ambassador to coordinate Jordan's stand with those of Arab and Islamic nations to seek the implementation of Security Council resolutions on Palestine.

A statement, issued following a Cabinet session called to review the situation in the occupied territories, said Jordan "strongly condemns this brutal aggression and the massacre of the Palestinian people." The killings, it said, "represented another link in the long chain of terrorist actions within a Zionist plan against the Palestinian

people, including imprisonment, torture, eviction, murder and demolition of homes in flagrant violation of human rights and international law," it said.

The government has instructed its permanent ambassador to the U.N. to condemn Israel's latest "barbaric action and to coordinate with Arab and Islamic groups at the U.N. in requesting the world's major powers to implement Security Council resolutions and the Geneva conventions concerning the protection of human rights and to see to it that Security Council resolutions in this regard are firm and speedy like those issued by the council recently with regard to the Gulf crisis," the statement said.

"While the government mourns the

death of the martyrs of the intifada, it hopes that the Jordanian citizens remain steadfast and bolster national unity in the face of the common enemy," said the statement.

"The government appeals to the members of the public and organisations and unions not to allow any party to undermine national unity and to remain vigilant so as to ensure the protection of the country against aggression," the statement added.

The statement said, "the defence of the holy shrines wherever they are is the responsibility of the honourable people in this nation and this country must remain a steadfast fortress challenging all conspiracies and threats."

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U.S. seeks to circumvent U.N. condemnation of Israel

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Arab delegates tried Monday to push through the U.N. Security Council a condemnation of Israel for using deadly force on Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem, but the United States balked.

The Arab envoys demanded that the killing of at least 30 Palestinians and wounding of 150 be denounced as a "criminal act." A total of 13 speakers assailed Israeli authorities for allowing police to open fire.

Council President Sir David Hannay of Britain said it was his opinion that the council "needs to come to some conclusions and that is what we hope to do."

Hannay would not comment on reports that the United States, objecting to proposed resolutions, preferred a general statement which Arab states believe is too mild in light of the violence in occupied Jerusalem.

"The consultations are going on to find an appropriate response to (the violence) and to try to find a way for the council to have a calming and steadying influence on what is

obviously a very difficult situation indeed," Hannay told reporters after informal sessions late Monday.

Yemen and other Arab states initiated a council meeting on last Friday in an effort to get members to move as decisively on the Palestinian issue as they had on Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

The meeting was given new impetus early Monday by the deaths of at least 30 Palestinians, shot dead by Israeli police after they threw stones at Jewish worshippers.

Many council members, including allies of the United States and Israel, felt a response was needed to maintain the unity of the 15-member body following the passage of eight strong resolutions against Israel.

The main stumbling block, according to several council sources, was the United States, which did not want to support a resolution it vetoed in May that called for a council consensus to recommend ways to protect Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation.

A new draft resolution, drawn up

by Colombia, Cuba, Malaysia and Yemen, calls for precisely such action.

Israeli Ambassador Johanan Bein said: "The only authority on security matters in Israel and the (occupied) territories... is the government of Israel."

Israel was sharply criticised at the session, with several speakers, including China, the Soviet Union and France, urging immediate council action following one of the worst days of violence since the Palestinian uprising began three years ago.

Soviet Ambassador Yuri Vorontsov said the Soviet Union "vehemently demands the provocative inhuman activities on the part of Israel," while Chinese Ambassador Li Daoyu said that Israel had stepped up its suppression with more violence.

Zehdi Terzi, the Palestinian U.N. representative, urged the council to despatch a commission "maybe on the first flight tomorrow" to report on the violence before all Palestinians lost faith in the United Nations.

Peaceful protests held in Jordan to condemn Jerusalem bloodbath

By Mariam M. Shahin and Lamis K. Andoni

AMMAN — Black flags, red-eyed women and angry students lined the streets of the capital and almost all cities and refugee camps in Jordan Tuesday, one day after at least 30 Palestinians were killed and hundreds wounded by Israeli soldiers at Haram Al Sharif, one of the holiest shrines of Islam in Jerusalem.

The spirit of national unity that has prevailed throughout Jordan for the last two and a half months, was evident among the thousands of demonstrators at the University of Jordan, the refugee camps and in front of the U.S. and French embassies without one report of clashes with police and security forces which lined the city streets.

Sit-ins and hunger strikes which began Monday night continued throughout the day as political groups which encompassed the entire range of Jordan's political rainbow met to decide on how to

best deal with the latest developments in the occupied territories and urged the public to express their frustration without creating internal chaos.

In numerous statements and requests, the U.N. was urged to send peacekeeping forces to the occupied territories to protect the Palestinian population from the Israelis.

The immediate application of all U.N. Security Council resolutions, an international peace conference and the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the Gulf headed the list of demands set forth by all groups and organisations participating in Tuesday's protests.

The day began with a demonstration of about 5,000 people in the largest refugee camp in Jordan, Beqaa, where community leaders called for a three-day general strike. Demonstrations also took place in the Wihdat camp and at the University of Jordan where about 8,000 students closed the main university street

before beginning a day-long march winding through the streets of the city.

After a day of political meetings and demonstrations which were peacefully prevented from continuing towards the American embassy, a group of about 300 mostly female demonstrators submitted a memo to the staff at the American embassy addressed to U.S. President Bush.

The statement, signed by American and British university graduates, the Organisation of American Women and the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee, Bush was asked to "refer back to your conscience and restrain yourself from claiming that you desire peace and justice in the region." The statement came as a response to a statement issued on behalf of Bush asking the Palestinians to restrain themselves after Monday's killings.

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PLO to endorse Iraqi concept of Gulf-Palestine link

TUNIS (R) — The biggest Palestinian gathering in 11 months, opening in Tunis Wednesday, will endorse Iraq's concept of linking the Gulf crisis and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, officials say.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) factions believe the massacre Palestinians by Israeli police in Arab Jerusalem Monday has strengthened the case for an international conference on both issues.

"What happened yesterday makes the point stronger, if there is to be a political solution to the Gulf crisis, then linkage is the only likely opening," PLO spokesman Jamil Hilal said Tuesday.

The meeting is of the PLO's 100-strong Central Council, the policymaking group which forms a link between the 15-man Executive Committee and the Palestine National Council.

The council should meet once every six months but its most recent session was in Baghdad last November.

The PLO called the meeting principally to back a Middle East peace plan touted through great success by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. He is widely seen as too close to Iraq to be an effective mediator in the Gulf conflict.

But Hilal said the killings in Jerusalem would shift the emphasis back towards the Israeli-occupied territories, where a 34-month-old Palestinian uprising has been losing momentum because of international interest in the Gulf crisis.

Both the PLO leadership and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein have proposed including Iraq's

occupation of Kuwait in the agenda for an international conference which would also deal with the chronic conflicts in Palestine and Lebanon.

Abbas Zaki of the leadership of Arafat's Fateh movement said Monday the Central Council would be asked to endorse the Iraqi initiative. "It is the natural way towards solving the region's problems. Otherwise the world can expect a devastating war," he told the Tunisian newspaper Al Sahab.

The U.S. State Department said Monday it would continue to seek a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict "but this has nothing to do with reversing the course of Iraq's aggression."

Hilal said he saw growing international recognition that it was impossible to separate the two issues, especially from France and Britain, which have special influence as permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

French President Francois Mitterrand said Monday that he did not want to mix the two issues but he added, "one cannot try to defend human rights here and neglect them there."

The Central Council meeting, expected to last two to three days, will repeat PLO calls for the stationing of U.N. troops to deploy in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip pending Israeli withdrawal under Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967.

A major Palestinian grievance has been that the United States and its allies rushed to take action against Iraq while quibbling for the past 23 years over U.N. resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Somali rebels claim destroying garrison

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Rebels say they are engaged in "fierce fighting" in a northwestern Somali town they attacked last week.

The Somali National Movement (SNM) said in a clandestine broadcast it had destroyed a military garrison in Gebiley, killing 65 government soldiers and wounding 105.

But the Monday night broadcast said heavy fighting was continuing in the town, a few kilometres west of the region's main administrative and military centre of Hargeisa.

The rebels have suffered 12 dead and 35 injured in the fighting that began last Thursday, the broadcast said. The report could not be independently verified.

The rebels said they captured a number of assault rifles, some ammunition and destroyed two tanks, an armoured vehicle, a jeep and a truck.

In another broadcast, the rebels claimed killing another 18 soldiers and capturing two women Saturday in fighting on the road from Hargeisa to the Red Sea port of Berbera.

"During the fighting the SNM fighters captured two women, one of whom is a Somali national and the other an employee of the International Red Cross. The women have been taken to an SNM army base," the rebel broadcast said.

Neither broadcast mentioned the shooting death of a third Red Cross employee Saturday, as reported by the organisation's headquarters in Geneva.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said Monday the rebels kidnapped Antonella Notari, 29, and the president of the Hargeisa branch of the affiliated Somali Red Crescent.

The women were among a group of four Red Cross-Red Crescent workers ambushed near Hargeisa, as they were returning from a relief mission in the region.

The women were not injured, but a companion, Peter Altweg, 27, was seriously wounded in the raid and died a few hours later, the Red Cross said. The fourth, a local helper, escaped.

The rebels took up arms in 1981 and seek President Mohammad Siad Barre's ouster. However, there is also banditry and inter-clan fighting in most of the Horn of Africa nation's countryside.

Police on alert

Security forces in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, have been put on alert because of expected street violence in protest against a new constitution this week, sources close to the police said Tuesday.

An Islamic fundamentalist group, opposed to government plans to adopt the more liberal constitution formally Thursday, has apparently called for demonstrations after Friday prayers on Thursday and Friday.

The government also announced it had cancelled for the first time the annual Oct. 21 celebrations of the bloodless coup that brought Siad Barre to power in 1969.

A brief statement from the president's office said the cancellation was due to the Gulf crisis, but it did not elaborate.

However, informed sources said the government feared rioting in the capital if celebrations went ahead, following a recent increase in bombings of government buildings and diplomatic missions and growing public hostility towards the government.

Addis Ababa claims wide victories over rebels

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — Ethiopia claims to have scored a number of major victories and inflicted heavy casualties in the last three months against secessionist northern rebels waging Africa's oldest war.

Meanwhile, the rebels said they repulsed a major government offensive Monday near the central Eritrean town of Halhal.

In a statement broadcast over clandestine rebel radio and monitored in Nairobi, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said government forces fled after suffering heavy losses in the daylong battle. Therebels did not give a figure for casualties.

The government, in its claim, said that since July air and ground attacks in central and northern Eritrea had destroyed large numbers of the rebels who have been

fighting since 1961 for independence for the province, Ethiopia's northernmost.

Since intensifying their struggle a year ago, the EPLF rebels have gained control of all but the province's capital, Asmara, which has been under siege for the last few months.

However, in a weekend statement at a ceremony honouring the air force for bravery, the government said its forces had defeated and dislodged large numbers of insurgents within a 50-70 kilometre radius of the city.

"The EPLF dream of capturing Asmara will always be a dream," according to the statement, which was not made public. The Associated Press obtained a copy of it Tuesday.

The government also said it bombed a large EPLF force in

Afabet in northern Eritrea, killing several members of the rebels' leadership.

Although it claimed to have inflicted heavy casualties on the insurgents, the government gave no figures.

The air force said it had to fly under extremely difficult weather conditions to bomb the guerrillas as they tried to cut off two main roads leading from Asmara.

The EPLF controls a third major highway leading from the provincial capital to the port of Massawa, which they seized in February.

The air force also said it had "completely disrupted" the movement of forces of a separate rebellion being waged by the Tigre People's Liberation Front in provinces south of Eritrea.

Study says Iraqi food stock will last 6 months

LONDON (AP) — Iraq should be able to survive United Nations sanctions for another six months and the international action is not likely to damage Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's position, according to a study published this week.

The report by the intelligence unit of the Economist entitled "Iraq: What if Sanctions Fail?" concluded the sanctions could be damaging in the long term, but not before late next summer.

Since the West is not likely to wait so long, a military strike against Iraq seemed inevitable, the report said.

The long-term effects of the sanctions on the Iraqi economy would be "very heavy," although probably not serious enough in the short term to force compliance with U.N. resolutions, the report said.

It said Iraq's weak point is the food supply which was likely to act as a fuse for the rest of the economy. After March 1991, bulk grain imports will be essential.

"Even if these are supplied on humanitarian grounds, the question will arise of who will pay for them," said the report.

Iraq's foreign assets have been frozen under U.N. Resolution 661 and its chief source of foreign revenue, oil, has been blocked by the trade embargo.

"Its ability to survive in the long term... is extremely doubtful

for as long as its oil exports are physically blocked," the report said.

Iraq's "looting" of gold from Kuwait has given Baghdad the chance to raise \$2 billion if the precious metal can be smuggled abroad and converted into hard currency.

The report said that while a naval blockade could be very efficient, a land blockade would be nearly impossible since the borders with Jordan and Iran are impossible to control.

The use of intermediaries and reliance on extensive smuggling, especially across the border with Iran, were seen in the report as significant factors in Iraq's bid to withstand the sanctions.

Because many foreigners remain in Iraq and Kuwait, some countries may be reluctant to starve their own nationals. Multinational companies are not likely to want to endanger their employees. Humanitarian concerns could splinter the international coalition, the report said.

Within the six months it will take for Iraq to exhaust its food supplies, other sectors of the economy will be hit to varying degrees, the report said.

The report also predicted hyperinflation as the restricted supply of goods combines with Iraq's attempt to put the Iraqi and Kuwaiti dinars on par and release unissued currency from Kuwait's central bank.

200 more refugees cross into S. Arabia

DHAHRAN (AP) — About 200 more Kuwaiti refugees crossed into Saudi Arabia Monday, officials and diplomats said. Many were being detained until their identifications could be confirmed.

The volume of refugees crossing at the town of Khafji, 300 kilometres north of here, has tapered off slightly since Friday when Iraqi troops opened the border crossing out of Kuwait for five hours a day.

Saudi officials said about 1,200 refugees have crossed since then. Iraqi troops are confiscating identification papers and Kuwaitis arriving without them must remain at the border crossing in a tent city until their IDs are confirmed.

Most of the 700 people in the camp are women and children fleeing Kuwait without any male relatives, said officials in Khafji.

Some people have been waiting for 10 days at the campsite.

"It is just a precaution in case Iraq is trying to sneak anybody in," said a Saudi official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The refugees are first screened by a Kuwaiti government committee that tries to confirm their identities by checking their accents, their knowledge about specific neighbourhoods and their claimed relatives.

Anyone with a relative or other sponsor in Saudi Arabia is allowed in immediately.

Iraqi troops last allowed large numbers across the border in mid-September, when 7,000 poured across in just three days.

Refugees said they left Kuwait out of fear of the Iraqi army and dwindling food supplies in the city with each household limited to one bag of bread per day.

Britain top U.S. ally in Gulf

BOURNEMOUTH, England (AP) — Conservative Party Chairman Kenneth Baker, opening the party's annual conference Tuesday, said Britain has proved itself America's most loyal ally in the Gulf crisis.

"We are not a nation that shirks its duty... that forsakes its friends," Baker told the 5,000 delegates gathered in a seafront convention centre under unprecedented security for the four-day conference.

"In our long history, we've had to take up burdens which others have found too heavy," added Baker. "And when an old ally and friend, the United States of America, calls for our help — they do not call in vain."

Baker was flanked by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and other top party leaders on the podium facing the packed hall beneath the conference slogan, "Strength to succeed."

Thatcher was the first Western ally to send forces to the Gulf after Iraq seized Kuwait Aug. 2 and has followed up with reinforcements due to total 15,000 military personnel.

Sharpshooters were posted on the roof of the convention centre, truckloads of police reinforcements rolled through Bournemouth, and long lines of delegates queued for police searches as part of the huge, £2-million (\$3.8 million) security operation.

It was mounted because of heightened fears of an assassination attempt on Thatcher by the Irish Republican Army, which killed a close Thatcher political associate in a July car bombing. The IRA also attempted to kill a government minister by planting a bomb at London conference last month.

The outlawed organisation, which is fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland, blew up a hotel in 1984 where Thatcher was attending a Conservative conference. Five people died in the attack.

Thatcher, who turns 65 Saturday, took her seat amid thunderous applause from the delegates.

Unlike many of her fellow cabinet ministers — all Conservative Party members of parliament — she usually sits through every debate. She winds up the conference with a keynote address on Friday.

The Conservatives meet at one of the gloomiest times for their re-election prospects since Thatcher won the first of her three successive general election victories in 1979.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Able Nathan on trial again

RAMLE (AP) — Peace activist Abie Nathan went on trial Tuesday on charges he met twice this year with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in violation of Israel's anti-"terrorist" law. Nathan was convicted last year for a 1988 meeting with Arafat and served four months of a six-month prison sentence before he was released for good behaviour. Nathan Tuesday acknowledged in Ramle's magistrates court that he met the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader two times in March in Tunis. But he pleaded innocent, maintaining the law under which he was charged was unjust. Court officials said Nathan faced up to seven years in jail — three for each alleged violation and an additional year that was "suspended" in the earlier case. Nathan told reporters after the session that he was ready to return to jail. "I am prepared to give my whole life for peace," Nathan said. "The punishment does not deter me... I will continue to fight against this unjust law because it is a law you cannot accept." Nathan, 64, first met Arafat in 1982 when he went to Lebanon during the Israeli siege of Beirut in an unsuccessful attempt to gain freedom for a captured Israeli soldier. He has met him eight times since. He is best known for making a dramatic trip in a private plane to Cairo in 1966 to try to convince Egypt to make peace with Israel. His pirate radio station, the Voice of Peace, operates from a ship in the Mediterranean Sea.

India to stop evacuation

NEW DELHI (AP) — India has said it will stop organised evacuation of its nationals from the Gulf as most of those who wanted to come home have returned. "We have done our job and now there is no need for any more organised evacuation," Foreign Ministry spokesman Aftab Seth told reporters. Seth said between 16,000 to 18,000 Indians were still in Kuwait and about 6,000 in Iraq. "They want to stay there for one reason or the other," Seth said. India will formally end the evacuation programme Wednesday. "It was a very complicated and very trying effort, but we finally did it," Seth said. At the beginning of the Gulf crisis there were an estimated 190,000 Indians in Kuwait and Iraq. Seth said if the remaining Indians want to return home in the future the government would reactivate the programme. "We are prepared to restart it if and when the need arises," he said.

Half of Canadians approve of Gulf role

TORONTO (AP) — Fifty-eight per cent of Canadian adults approve of Canadian armed forces being sent to the Gulf region, while 32 per cent disapprove, according to a poll released Monday. Ten per cent said they did not know or had no opinion. Canada has sent three ships carrying 934 sailors to the Gulf as well as 18 CF-18 fighter planes with 45 flying and support staff to help enforce an international trade blockade of Iraq. Some critics have blasted Prime Minister Brian Mulroney for not recalling parliament before he decided to send the troops. The Gallup poll suggested that support for the move diminishes with age. Among those respondents under 40, 64 per cent favour sending troops to the Middle East. But the figure dropped to 60 per cent of those in their 40s, to 57 per cent of those aged 50 to 64 and to only 36 per cent of those 65 and older. The poll was based on personal interviews with 1,051 adults, Sept. 12-15. The margin of error is plus or minus four per cent.

Iraq, Kuwait invited to Seville fair

SEVILLE, Spain (R) — Both Iraq and Kuwait are invited to a world fair planned for Seville in 1992 and to a meeting of participants next month, Emilio Cassinello, who runs the state Expo-92 organising company, said Monday. "The sanctions against Iraq for the invasion of Kuwait are of a commercial nature and therefore not applicable in principle to the world fair in Seville," said Cassinello. Expo-92 will mark the 500th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of the Americas and is expected to attract 18 to 20 million visitors during the six months from April 20, 1992. More than 100 countries will participate. Expo organisers sent invitations to the November meeting to Baghdad and to the toppled Kuwaiti government in Saudi Arabia after consulting the Spanish Foreign Ministry, Cassinello said. At the meeting, Iraq is expected to decide whether it will go ahead with plans made before its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait to share a pavilion with Egypt, Jordan and Yemen in the Arab enclosure.

Kaifu returns home from Middle East

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu returned home Tuesday from a week-long Middle East tour and said Arab leaders appreciated Japan's efforts towards helping to solve the Gulf crisis. Kaifu described the trip as very fruitful, foreign ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe said. Watanabe told a news conference that Japan's \$4 billion contribution was much appreciated among Arab leaders, but "our position is more appreciated than our money." Japan has pledged \$2 billion in aid to countries hard hit by the crisis and an additional \$2 billion for equipment and material for multinational forces arrayed against Iraq. In meetings with leaders in five Arab countries, Kaifu maintained that Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait, return the ruling Al Sabah family to power and free foreign hostages. During his visit, Kaifu also pledged swift distribution of \$600 million of the \$2 billion of economic aid in an effort to ease economic worries of Middle East countries suffering from the economic embargo against Iraq. He promised an emergency loan of \$200 million to Turkey, \$300 million to Egypt and \$100 million to Jordan. He also discussed ways of increasing Japan's economic cooperation in Saudi Arabia and Oman.

128 Soviets leave Baghdad, but 93 remain

MOSCOW (AP) — Nearly 130 out of 5,000 Soviets working in Iraq returned to Moscow Monday, and the others intend to leave as soon as possible for safety reasons, the government newspaper Izvestia reported. The newspaper said Iraqi authorities have not tried to block the Soviets from leaving. Izvestia also said 93 military specialists remain in Iraq and will leave when their work is completed, but it did not say when that might be. As of last August, 216 Soviet military advisers were in Iraq, and none have been sent in to replace those who have left, the paper said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programme
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Cairo news message
18:20 Local programme
20:30 News in Arabic
21:30 Arabic programme
22:30 News in Arabic
23:40 Play

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Classical Music
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
21:10 Documentary
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "Confessional"

PRAYER TIMES

04:14 Fajr
05:51 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:23 'Asr
16:41 'Asr
17:15 Maghreb
18:31 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637285
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 677440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625453
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815877, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Slight drop in temperatures will take place and winds will be southerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Min./max. temp.
Amman 16 / 24
Aqaba 22 / 34
Deserts 16 / 33
Jordan Valley 20 / 35

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 30, Aqaba 34. Humidity readings:
Amman 34 per cent, Aqaba 34 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Rahman Jabr 775050
Dr. Khalid Yusuf 677129
Dr. Basim Al Qadousi 640024
Dr. Hanna Mansour 748364
Firas Pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Neimoud pharmacy 636762
Al Salame pharmacy 636762
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

ZARQA:
Dr. Izeddin Abdul Salam (—)
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue Police 199
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 602800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 897467
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661103
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/2
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Aidha Maternity, J. Amn. 62441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musaber Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 665127/77
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajireen 777101/3
Al-Basit, J. Amman 775111/26
Army, Marfa 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)951071
Dr. Sina Hospital (09)986752
IBRD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Raysa Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

16:00 Damascus (RJ)
16:30 Jeddah (RJ)
16:45 London (RJ)
16:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
16:55 Cairo (RJ)
17:30 Madria (RJ)
17:35 Paris (RJ)
18:45 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
18:55 Frankfurt (RJ)
18:55 Brussels, Rome (RJ)
19:30 Athens (RJ)
19:35 Paris (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

16:40 Larnaca (CY)
18:35 Bahrain (TK)
19:00 Jeddah (SV)
19:40 Benghazi (LY)
19:45 Sana'a, Jeddah (TY)
20:00 Cairo (MS)
20:30 Dubai (EK)
20:45 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
20:55 Frankfurt (LH)
21:05 Damascus (AF)
21:20 Paris, Damascus (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

12:00 Cairo (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:20 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
13:40 London (RJ)
17:15 New Delhi (RJ)
21:00 Riyadh (RJ)
21:05 Cairo (RJ)
21:20 Cairo (RJ)
21:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:45 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
05:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:25 Larnaca, Zurich (SR)
06:35 Beirut (ME)
08:25 Rome (AZ)
10:00 Larnaca (CY)
11:45 Rome (AZ)
12:40 Jeddah (SV)
14:00 Benghazi (LY)
14:45 Cairo (MS)
15:30 Jeddah, Sana'a (TY)
19:35 Kuwait (KU)

MARKET PRICES

Upsettles price in \$/kg

Apple 650 / 500
Banana 500 / 450
Banana (Mukammur) 450 / 400
Beans 350 / 300
Cabbage 250 / 200
Carrot 180 / 120
Cauliflower 240 / 200
Cucumbers (large) 100 / 50
Cucumbers (small) 170 / 120
Dates 450 / 400
Eggplant 220 / 180
Figs 400 / 300
Garlic 900 / 800
Grapes 320 / 280
Lemon 250 / 200
Mallow 120 / 80
Marrow (large) 120 / 80
Marrow (small) 220 / 160
Onion (dry) 240 / 200
Orange 550 / 500
Peach 600 / 500
Peanut 240 / 200
Pepper (hot) 120 / 80
Pepper (sweet) 120 / 80
Potato 350 / 300
Radish 150 / 100
Sage 350 / 300
Sweet melon 240 / 200
Tomatoes 100 / 50
Watermelon 160 / 100

Hammad, Swareddahab review aid to evacuees

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 8,212 evacuees Monday arrived in Jordan through various border points, according to Public Security Department sources. The sources said that a total of 12,941 evacuees had left Monday, including 4,535 Arab nationals and 3,677 foreigners.

The evacuees' problem was the subject of discussion at a meeting held Tuesday between Salameh Hammad, Ministry of Interior's secretary-general, who is also chairman of the Evacuees Welfare Committee, and the former Sudanese head of state, Abdul Rahman Swareddahab, who is vice-president of the World Islamic Council.

Hammad and Swareddahab reviewed the efforts made by the Jordanian government and the international organisations to deal with the problem of evacuees. They also discussed the role the council can play in supporting the official and unofficial Jordanian efforts to alleviate the suffering of evacuees. Swareddahab said the evacuees problem constituted a burden and a challenge which was beyond Jordan's economic capabilities.

In the meantime, the Evacuees Welfare Committee received an amount of children food donated by two American children. In a message the children sent to Hammad, they voiced their concern over the situation of the evacuees and their children, saying that the scenes of the evacuees, which world television networks have screened, have moved their feelings.

They expressed hope that other U.S. children would follow suit, and that the whole U.S. community would embark on a solution to this human tragedy.

The Pakistani Embassy in Amman Tuesday called on Jordan National Red Crescent Society President Ahmad Abu Qoura to assist in sending 20 tonnes of food supplies to the Pakistani nationals in Iraq.



Over 100 women organise a sit-in Tuesday outside U.N. headquarters in Amman to protest the massacre of 34 Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories (photo Youssef Al 'Alisa)

Jordanian women protest killing of Palestinians, demand enforcement of U.N. resolutions

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A group of 100 women continued a sit-in and hunger strike Tuesday outside U.N. headquarters in Amman Shmeisani district, issuing a statement in which they asked U.N. peacekeeping forces to protect the Palestinian population in the Arab territories occupied by Israel.

The sit-in began Monday evening after news reached Amman that 30 Palestinians had been killed at the Haram Al Sharif in Jerusalem, one of the holiest shrines of Islam. The death of the 30 people at the hands of Israeli soldiers and the wounding of several hundred other Arabs outraged Jordanians, many of whom took to the streets Monday to protest the killings.

In a statement made available to the press, the women, led by

the Jordanian Women's Federation, said that the United Nations "should shoulder responsibility towards protecting civilian population in the occupied territories from massacres and deportations as well as imprisonment."

As black flags and Palestinian flags waved from the posts of the U.N. building, women read out poetry and sang songs commemorating those who had died in the four decades of long struggle to achieve "justice in Palestine."

The number of participants reached over 2,000 during the day as many women came to express their support for the strikers.

"It is the most humiliating phase of our struggle," said one woman participant in her 50's who said that the taking of the key of Al Aqsa Mosque was symbolic for a takeover by Israeli authorities of the Islamic holy

shrine. "What has happened is unforgivable, our whole history has been marked by countless unforgivable events, massacres and destructive moves by Israel," she added wiping tears off her face. "Maybe the time has come," said another participant, "that we no longer count on the civilised west to take care of things."

Holding a list of demands, the women said that only direct international supervision of Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip could stop Israel from changing the cultural, demographic and religious character of Jerusalem and the occupied territories.

The women also asked that members of the United Nations impose economic sanctions on Israel to enforce the many U.N. Security Council resolutions pertaining to the issue of Palestine.

Religious leaders, heads of organisations denounce the crimes against Palestinians, urge unified Arab stand to face aggression

AMMAN (Petra) — Heads of the eastern churches in Jordan Tuesday issued a statement urging all men, women and children in Palestine to escalate the holy war against the Israeli forces and protect the Christian and Islamic holy places in Palestine.

The crime committed in Jerusalem Monday clearly manifests Israel's total disregard of Islamic and Christian holy shrines, and therefore international protection for the holy places is badly needed," said the statement.

"We raise our voices high, appealing to the United Nations Security Council which issued several resolutions against Iraq in the space of one week, to issue a new resolution that would put an end to Israel's conspiracies against the Arab Nation and its holy places," said the statement.

"How can the United States, and its allies expect Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait at a time when Washington condones atrocities by its ally in occupied Jerusalem?" asked the statement.

The United Nations Security Council which opened the way for "the United States and the Western alliance to mass forces in the Gulf should take drastic action and implement its own resolutions concerning Palestine and should condemn Israel's ac-

tions against the Palestinian people," the statement demanded.

"As the Arab and Islamic nations are now facing the most dangerous challenge to their existence and to their holy shrines, Arab states, which chose to support America in its action against Iraq, should wake up to reality and realise that they too will be facing the Zionist danger," said the statement.

It appealed to the Arab states to take whatever steps are needed to force the foreign forces to leave the Arabian peninsula and to unite their own forces in the face of Israel's atrocities and criminal actions in Palestine.

President of the Jordanian Press Association Hashem Khreisat Tuesday sent a cable to United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in which he called him to intervene to stop the massacre against the Palestinian people and to enable them to establish their independent state on their national soil.

Khreisat said that the Monday massacre constituted a flagrant aggression on the Muslim holy shrines and a challenge to the will of the international community. In his cable Khreisat criticised the U.S. stand on the Gulf crisis and its support for Israel in its "incessant acts of repression

against Palestinians in the occupied territories, heedless of all the U.N. resolutions issued over the Palestinian problem."

Khreisat also called for the protection of civilians under occupation in line with the Geneva Convention, and requested the Security Council to adopt a more logical and honourable stand towards the Palestine question.

Chairman of the permanent committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and President of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) Ahmad Abu Qoura denounced the killing of more than 30 Palestinian citizens in Jerusalem by Israeli soldiers and said such savage acts by Israeli occupation forces were serious violations of international law and all humanitarian norms.

The aggression, he said, was not only against citizens but also against holy places which are, like human beings, protected by international laws. He added that the massacre, which was committed by Israeli occupation soldiers and Zionist settlers, exceeded all limits and was more than immoral with live ammunition used against unarmed civilians in a place considered one of the most sacred.

Abu Qoura appealed to the chairman of the International Red Cross Committee (ICRC) to carry out his duties in protecting civilians living under occupation.

The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Tuesday condemned the massacre committed by the Israeli authorities against Palestinians; and called for a unified Arab stand to counter the challenges facing the Arab Nation.

In a statement issued Tuesday, the Council said that this ugly crime stressed the insistence of Israel, which receives the full support and encouragement of the imperialist forces, to defy the world public opinion, international legitimacy and charters and its disregard of all international organisations and resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

"The circumstances under which the crime was committed and its nature and ugliness constitute a new warning and a loud outcry to all the Arab countries to unify their positions to face the dangers ahead of them," the statement said.

The statement called on the Arab states to adopt a united position to face such aggressions against the Palestinian people and to defend the holy places.

Royal Committee on Jerusalem condemns massacre of Palestinians

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Committee on Jerusalem Affairs has called on Prime Minister Mudar Badran to convene a meeting of the Higher Committee on Jerusalem, which is chaired by King Hassan II of Morocco, to discuss the massacre of Palestinian people in the holy city of Jerusalem Monday and means of confronting Israel's atrocities.

The committee said in a message to the prime minister that the higher committee, which was created by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), should take charge of its duty and provide protection to the Islamic holy places, a task entrusted to Jordan since the beginning of Israel's occupation of Arab territories in 1967.

At the same time the Royal Committee on Jerusalem Affairs issued a statement strongly condemning Israel's massacre of Palestinian people in the courtyard of the Al Aqsa Mosque Monday as a crime directed against defenceless people.

The statement accused the United States of encouraging Israel's acts of terrorism by condoning earlier atrocities and crimes and by massing troops to consolidate its occupation and invasion of the Islamic holy places in the Arabian peninsula.

The statement said that the United Nations had failed to take effective and proper measures to provide protection to the Palestinian people in the face of the genocide launched by the Israeli occupation authorities and therefore the Arab and Islamic nations have no alternative but to declare a holy war against all the forces of evil and oppression so as to safeguard the holy shrines in Jerusalem, Mecca and Medina.

The massacre committed by the Israelis Monday comes after the one committed in Bureij camp in Gaza Strip, and both took place with support from and participation of the Israeli armed forces, backed by U.S.-made helicopters, said the statement.

The killing of tens of people and the wounding of hundreds others at the hand of the Israeli authorities have been planned in advance by the Israeli authorities as part of an all out plot to exterminate the Palestinian people, said the statement.

The new brutal crime against the Palestinians came at a time when the leaders of the Arab and Islamic countries are involved in side issues and when certain Arab

leaders are urging the invaders of Arab lands to launch an aggression on the Arab Nation to pave the way for pillaging Arab oil wealth and abort all plans for the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict, the statement continued.

The statement drew attention to the fact that the Jordanian government has been issuing one appeal after another urging nations of the world and the United Nations Security Council to provide protection to the Palestinian people in implementation of the Geneva conventions, but all the appeals have gone unheeded and the Palestinians have continued to face oppression, the statement added.

It said that through brutal crimes the Israelis were trying to subdue the Palestinians, and their uprising and exterminate the Palestinian nation. Should the U.N. Security Council fail to stop the Israeli crimes, the statement concluded, the Arab and Islamic nations would have no alternative but to wage a holy war in its most powerful form against the forces of evil to save the holy shrines

from danger. The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in Amman Tuesday issued a statement drawing attention to the long series of terrorist activities committed by the Israeli authorities in Palestine and its acts of sacrilege against the holy shrines.

"The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs is following up the news about the massacres with a heavy heart and can only appeal to the Arab and Islamic nations to beware of the Zionist conspiracies and to take immediate and speedy action against Israel's acts of oppression," the statement said.

If said that by such brutal actions the Israeli authorities and the Zionists hope to build the so-called Jewish temple after demolishing Al Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest shrine for the Islamic World.

The Ministry of Awqaf Tuesday sent cables to ministries of awqaf in various Arab and Islamic countries, warning them of the Israeli designs against the holy places in Palestine and urging them to take a unified action to abort Israel's evil plots in Palestine.

First Arab student wins coveted prize in competition organised by UPU and UNESCO

Jordanian student wins gold in letter-writing competition

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian student Rasha Al Etoum has won this year's gold medal from the Universal Postal Union (UPU) for the best and most impressive letter written on "the role of youth in combating hunger," a theme chosen by the union for 1990.

Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Nabil Abul Huda presented the medal to the student from Zein Al Sharaf Secondary School in Amman at a ceremony held in observance of the World Postal Day.

UPU has awarded Rasha Etoum the gold medal because she came first in a letter-writing competition by youths from around the world organised in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), according to a statement by the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications.

At the ceremony, which was attended by several officials, the minister paid tribute to the winning student, the first Arab student ever to win the prize since it was created by UPU in 1971.

He said that Rasha Etoum won the prize in a fierce competition from thousands of other young men and women from UPU's 170 member states.

"The prize clearly manifests the high standard of culture among the Jordanian youths and will leave a strong impression with youths from the other member states," Abul Huda said.

The minister expressed delight for taking part in the ceremony to honour the winning student as other countries observe the World Postal Day, commemorating the establishment of UPU in 1948.

"I warmly congratulate Rasha Etoum on winning the prize be-

cause it is indeed a success for all Jordanian youth, and I seize this opportunity to urge all Jordanians to do all in their power to serve their country and reflect its excellent image to the outside world," the minister said in his brief address at the ceremony.

Since its establishment the UPU has charted a programme of activities which aims at promoting the development of international postal services and postal technical assistance to union members, guarantee freedom of transit, unify postal charges and settle disputes by arbitration.

UPU is governed by a 40-member executive council based in Switzerland and is responsible for encouraging, supervising and coordinating international cooperation in the form of postal technical assistance and vocational training.

Trade board to discuss economic situation

AMMAN (Petra) — The board of the Federation of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce will meet Thursday in response to a request by Madaba District Chamber of Commerce.

Secretary of Madaba Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mousa Abu Zaqi said that the board would discuss several issues on the economic situation in the country and the reflections of the Gulf crisis on it.

The paper presented by Madaba chamber also deals with means of promoting exports and tapping new markets to export Jordanian products.

The board will also discuss another working paper, presented by Irbid Chamber of Commerce, dealing with an amendment to the income tax law for the year 1989 and the professions licensing law. The paper also includes a proposal made by the chamber to form an official delegation to tour several countries with the aim of finding new markets for Jordanian products.

The discussions will be followed by a lecture on the status of the Jordanian economy delivered by Minister of Industry and Trade Ziad Fariz.

Jordanian industrialists are invited to Bucharest fair

By Ica Wahbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Fariz has been invited to the official opening of the Bucharest International Fair in Romania, to be held between Oct. 13 and 21.

The fair, in which over 1,300 companies from more than 50 countries in Europe, Africa, Asia and America are expected to take part, will display samples of products ranging from machinery, equipment, and light industries to farming implements, motor cars, furniture and raw materials.

According to the Commercial Section at the Romanian Embassy in Amman invitations also went out to Jordanian businessmen and industrialists to take part in the international fair and display samples of national products, thus opening the way for the Kingdom to find new markets in Europe.

The Commercial Section said that the fair in Romania would offer a good opportunity to the Jordanian industries in view of the fact that the Kingdom has lost nearly 50 per cent of its markets in Kuwait and Iraq in the wake of Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait.

Referring to Jordanian Romanian trade, an embassy official said that it had been steadily progressing over the years, with the two sides maintaining a balanced volume of trade totalling around \$90 million annually.

Earlier this week Romanian I.C.I. Chimica firm concluded a deal with the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) to purchase 200,000 tonnes of Jordanian phosphate from now until the end of 1990.

According to embassy sources, Jordan's phosphate exports to Romania in 1989 amounted to 500,000 tonnes.

In exchange for phosphate Jordan's imports from Romania include light industry products, chemicals, food, electrical appliances, timber, furniture, plastic products and other consumer goods.

Romanian company Romelectro had contributed to the electrification of southern Jordan by supplying and installing cables extending over 1,000 kilometres, within a Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) plan.

In addition Romanian company Rompetrol has helped the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company in Zarqa to carry out its various expansion projects.

According to the embassy official, the joint Jordanian Romanian trade committee has scheduled a meeting in Amman at the end of the coming month to discuss means of promoting trade and to explore ways for economic and technical cooperation.

He said that Romania is now adopting the market economy system which is bound to make it easier on its companies to conclude deals with other nations.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjun — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Department of Antiquities' Registration and Research Centre, Jabal Amman.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by four Palestinian artists depicting the suffering of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation at the Jordan National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Science in Profile" at the British Council.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture, in Arabic, entitled "Zionist Plots During and After the Gulf Crisis" by Dr. Assad Abdul Rahman at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:30 p.m.

FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "Defence of the Realm" at the British Council — 5:00 p.m.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Brazilian president thanks King for help

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received a telephone call from Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello who voiced his country's gratitude and appreciation to the King for his goodwill efforts with Iraq ensuring the departure of Brazilians from Iraq. The Brazilian president voiced hope that the King pursues efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis.

Badran condoles crown prince of Dubai

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Tuesday sent a cable to Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Crown Prince of Dubai, condoling him over the death of his father Sheikh Rashid Ben Maktoum. Badran voiced deep regret and sorrow for the passing away of Sheikh Rashid, saying that Jordanians hold special respect and appreciation to him for his honourable stands towards Jordan.

Parliamentarians to leave for IPU meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — A parliamentary delegation led by Deputy Taher Al Masri, chairman of the Lower House of Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, leaves for Uruguay Wednesday to take part in the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) 84th conference. The six-day conference is scheduled to discuss several issues related to international and regional cooperation, enhancing the democratisation process worldwide as well as the Arab

Gulf crisis. The delegation includes in its membership Senator Amin Shuqair, Deputy Ahmad Innab, Secretary General of the parliament Saleh Al Zu'bi and the Parliament's Deputy Secretary General for Arab and International Parliamentary Affairs Zaid Zuraikat.

31 centres for adult education open

NORTH SHOUNEH (Petra) — North Jordan Valley Education Department Tuesday decided to open 31 centres for adult education in various parts of the district. With the opening of these centres, some 436 adults will be able to attend literacy classes.

PSD announces bridges programme

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department (PSD) sources said that only 150 citizens would be allowed to cross King Hussein and Prince Mohammad bridges over the Jordan River Wednesday Oct. 10, 1990. The sources said the two bridges would be closed completely Thursday Oct. 11, while Friday 200 citizens will be allowed to cross the two bridges.

8 killed, 259 injured in road accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — Eight people were killed and 259 others were injured as a result of 372 car accidents which took place throughout the Kingdom during the period from Sept. 29 and Oct. 6, according to Public Security Department sources. The sources attributed the accidents to high speed, failure to observe traffic regulation, wrong overtaking and reckless driving.

ANNOUNCING

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The bond gets stronger

MONDAY'S massacre of tens of unarmed Palestinians at Haram Al Sharif which houses the third holiest shrine of Islam reinforces more than ever the need to link the Palestinian conflict with the Gulf crisis. This organic link could not have been expressed better than by French President Francois Mitterrand who solemnly declared at a Paris press conference that the cold blooded killing of Palestinians on Monday creates an irreversible link between the Palestinian question and the Gulf crisis. "I do not intend to mix these two questions," Mitterrand said, but "one cannot try to defend human rights here and neglect them there."

Furthermore, the muted U.S. reaction to the massacre by merely calling on Israel in the ensuing U.N. Security Council deliberations on the Jerusalem bloodbath to simply exercise restraint, drains away whatever ethics and morality that are left in the U.S.-orchestrated U.N. Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis. In so reacting Washington once again exposed itself to the charge that it does not and never did have the commitment to move effectively in the direction of resolving the decades-old occupation and annexation of Palestinian territory. A further evidence of the lukewarm U.S. interest in ending the Israeli occupation of Arab lands and the annexation of Jerusalem was its no-comment and no-reaction to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's vow Sunday that his country would build Jewish settlements right in the heart of East Jerusalem. Shamir could not have made his intentions clearer to defy the international community on Jerusalem than by repeating that "we (Israel) are certain that not for long it (Jerusalem, East and West) will remain the one and only Jewish house" and that "it will not be long before around it rises a Jewish neighbourhood, big and firm."

There we have it. Shamir had set stage for Monday's massacre by defying the entire international community, including its faithful ally Washington, in backing his words with deeds when scores of Israeli zealots moved to declare their determination to build a temple in the Haram Al Sharif complex. This obviously ignited the fire that exploded into one of the biggest massacres of Palestinians at the hands of the trigger-happy Israelis. And with the infamous, old U.S. opposition to any U.N. move aimed at protecting Palestinians in the occupied territories still continuing, there is little hope that Washington's stance will not be seen as hampering the course of justice, human rights and legitimacy in this part of the world.

As His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan stated in an interview with Le Monde on Monday, "the explosiveness of the situation now is only a step away from moving the whole region from a crisis between conflicting states to a crisis of conflicting religious adherences."

"The Muslim perception," Prince Hassan went on to affirm, "sees the presence of international forces, especially the non-Muslim troops in the Gulf, as giving credence to the idea of a new crusade."

Thus the alarming deterioration in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has effectively linked the Palestinian conflict with the Gulf crisis and there is no way now to separate the two issues. Iraq's August 12 initiative linking all the simmering conflicts of the Middle East with the Kuwaiti situation has at least gained moral credence if not outright legitimacy.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

JORDANIAN dailies on Tuesday focused attention on the massacre of Palestinians in the holy city of Jerusalem condemning Israel's outrageous crime against the civilian population and demanding that the United Nations and the international community intervene to put an end to Israel's barbaric actions.

Al Ra'i daily said that the Arabs are now involved in a holy war against the U.S.-Zionist alliance, and against the invading forces in Palestine and the Arabian peninsula. While the enemy forces with their tanks, helicopters and ships were making ready to launch aggression against Iraq, part of their forces were engaged in killing Palestinians at Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, said the paper. It said that the common enemy, assisted by forces from Arab states are occupying the holy land in the Arabian peninsula at a time when the Israeli forces, backed by the United States are consolidating their hold over the holy places in Jerusalem and Palestine. Those who were killed in Jerusalem on Monday fell by the bullets of the common enemy, not only by those fired by Israeli troops but also by bullets fired on the Arabs by the U.S.-led alliance now massed in the Arabian peninsula, said the paper. It noted that all the holy shrines are now being desecrated in the Arabian peninsula and in Jerusalem by the enemies of the Arab and Muslim nations, and the common enemy is being assisted in his endeavour by Arab forces and Arab capitals and Arab leaders. It is a holy war, said the paper, in which God and those who uphold his faith can only survive.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday calls on the government to raise the price of gasoline by at least 10 per cent in order to help reduce public energy consumption. It is far better for the government to take this step now than to issue appeals to the public or carry out awareness campaigns, calling for the rationalisation of energy consumption, says Fahed Al Faneek in his column. The energy conservation measures just announced by the government are considered a step in the right direction, but further and more drastic steps should be taken in the course of implementing an austerity programme if Jordan is to avoid a major economic crisis, says the writer.

Econo-political Forum

Multiple mistakes in Mr. Bush's Gulf policy

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

In handling the Gulf crisis, Mr. Bush committed a number of mistakes whose effects will hopefully prove not to be irreversible. The earliest and really fatal mistake was his insistence, hours after the eruption of the crisis on Aug. 2, on the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Probably nobody would have quarrelled with Mr. Bush on "withdrawal" including President Saddam himself because Iraq officially announced, as everybody remembers, that it would withdraw from Kuwait in a matter of days or weeks. However, the word "unconditional" complicated the situation because it has been being perceived as tantamount to absolute submission and humiliation. It thus triggered a chain of spiralling actions, counteractions and reactions which have brought us to the present verge-of-war situation.

By his insistence on unconditionality, Mr. Bush denied himself the manoeuvrability which is indispensable for a successful crisis-management. It is no wonder therefore that Mr. Bush is now accused, at home and abroad, of cornering himself, and other parties, into a situation which, with or without war, is most unproductive and self-defeating.

By insisting on unconditional withdrawal before even any exchange of words, Mr. Bush actually attached the tag of an American solution to the crisis and ruled out any other solutions including the Arab one. Only the Arab solution can work in the short-term and long-term and has no nasty side effects. The American solution might be forced down the throat of the Arab World but it will not work in the longer run. Most probably, this fact is drawing now on Mr.

Bush but it means nothing as long as he is hostage to the unconditionality formula. The Mitterrand initiative derives its forcefulness and attractiveness from the fact that it did get round the complex of unconditionality. Now if one asks what is the Arab solution, the answer will be that the whole world has to cooperate in working it out because an Arab solution is not necessarily one which is made by Arabs but one which conforms to Arab minds, national interests and standards. Forcing unconditional withdrawal of an Arab army from an Arab country by an American president or achieving such withdrawal by an American army does not conform to these interests and standards.

The second mistake of Mr. Bush relates to the high-tone language which he used in talking about the crisis. Speaking

as if he were the master of the universe, Mr. Bush deliberately picked up words which did not bear his standing as a head of state and which obviously were meant to be very insulting. In the early days of the crisis he talked about lies, liars, Hitlerism, toppling, plotting and assassination in a language more akin, at best, to a school teacher. While serving no meaningful purpose, his words hardened the Iraqi attitude into an uncompromising one and, of course, were reciprocated.

To back his unconditionality formula, Mr. Bush has had to invoke the dreadful spectre of a crushing military strike against Iraq and to keep it looming all the time. And to give his threats flavour, he coupled the war of nerves with unprecedented military build-up and deafening cries of war. The message was not picked up

by a steel-nerved Saddam Hussein and a war-accustomed Iraqi people as much as by the oil markets. This produced a bizarre phenomenon. Markets can not afford to disbelieve a president of the USA heralding war round the clock. Oil prices jumped up in terror and we had a very odd situation where prices were rising when there were no supply shortages. This is not only injecting recessionary blood into world economy but also creating deep distortions in the oil markets, which are catching the attention, and worries, of oil experts. Nobody knows for sure where all this is leading the world economy, but let us hope that Mr. Bush does. And remember that oil production facilities round the world are now stretched to the extreme. If any part of them breaks down or is stalled for whatever reason, oil prices will rocket up

and lead to worldwide economic chaos.

When this article was being written, the news of the latest Israeli massacre against Palestinians in Jerusalem was streaming in, just to add to the huge Israeli inventory of these massacres which continued for more than five decades. Shooting down civilians under occupation violates international law which obligates occupation authorities to protect these civilians. Under the pretext of defending international law in the Gulf, Mr. Bush has showed tremendous "courage" in confronting President Saddam through mobilising an unprecedented armada ready to devastate the area. Now, will he show us a very tiny fraction of that "courage" vis-a-vis Mr. Shamir? If you put your money on that, you will go broke. I would say.

King Hussein offers sane solution

By Gerald Elliott

REGARDLESS from what quarter these days, almost everything we hear or see forecloses the possibility of peace. The march toward war seems inexorable, inescapable. No one seems willing to venture a prediction that it will be avoided, or even hazard the guess that it can be avoided. Under these circumstances, the deck would seem to be stacked against peace. If everyone from the president down to the average man on the street is reconciled to what he has come to believe is the inevitability of war, there is little that we common citizens can do to head off another blood bath.

Or is there? Hussein Ibn Talal, King of Jordan, is not at the moment high in the favour of our warlords, but he has been an impressive figure on the world scene for many years. And a reasonable one. In the Sept. 23 issue of Washington Post there appears under his signature an article titled "It's Not Too Late to Prevent a War." It is almost the only piece I have seen in weeks to suggest that the door has not been slammed on peace, that there may be ways of settling the present dispute in the Middle East rather than through a shooting war.

First, I want to say that I reject out of hand President Bush's assertion that we are in the Middle East to "protect

our way of life." Nonsense. Our way of life is not involved there. The shaky sheikhdoms of the Middle East are.

I would not sacrifice one American life to restore the emir of Kuwait to his throne. He has been shaking down his people long enough. Let him take what is coming to him.

Nor would I spend a single American life to settle the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait. Are we to rush our battalions all over the world to settle the disputes between neighbouring countries wherever they may be on the empty claim that we are preserving world order? Where is the order in spending billions to destroy thousands of lives and millions of dollars of property?

The only persons that such "enforced compromises" please are the munitions manufacturers, the aeronautics industry and the others whose sole business in this world is to produce the engines of war to destroy it.

The prospect of war — especially a distant one that might not brush our shores — could be particularly attractive to an American president at this time, in light of the fact that the country has been sliding slowly into a depression and all the signs point to a continued drift in that direction, with dire results to the economy. With a presidential election now a mere two years away, this is no prospect to contemplate with equanimity, not if you are one of those

intent on holding on to the reins of government.

Each day I pick up the paper hoping, although not expecting, that some sane voice on this side will have given at least a small sign that peace has not been entirely forsaken. But each day brings only disappointments. President Bush's speeches on the campaign trail are to statesmanship as a beer commercial is to the Gettysburg Address. All of the threats have been uttered a thousand times; reason has taken flight.

King Hussein wrote in the Post: "Let us hope that a new world order can be established, but its foundation must be based on conciliation, not conflagration, and on distributive, not selective justice and morality. 'I fear the current course of events in the Middle East could, indeed, be a replay of August 1914. To repeat the scenario would be an inexcusable tragedy. If the same effort by the world community in the present marshalling of military forces, the imposition of sanctions and the commitment of colossal sums of money were to be applied to a political solution, I am convinced it could be achieved.'"

And then there came this sentence: "It is very disturbing that some believe military action is the only solution to the current crisis," followed by this ominous warning: "The effects of a war against Iraq would not be limited to the confines of that country. They would re-

verberate in every capital throughout the Middle East. They would create the very instability such action was designed to prevent. For these reasons a political solution to the present crisis is imperative."

He finished with the statement that "It is not beyond the ingenuity of the leaders of this world to devise a peaceful solution to this crisis. May God help us all if they cannot."

This is not a madman raving and raving; this is the rational head of Jordan, a man with whom we have been able in the past to find common ground.

For reasons wholly without foundation, a fairly large segment of the American population appears to believe that we have, but to dispatch a squadron or two of planes to Iraq and saturate Saddam Hussein's retreat with some bombs — through "surgical strikes," to use Henry Kissinger's comforting and wholly misleading language — and the Beast of Baghdad (it's so easy to dispose of the enemy if you have the right slogans) will be dispatched.

Kissinger and the rest should get off that science-fiction kick. Surgical strikes in the sun-drenched deserts of Arab may be the miracles of romance novels. In fact they quite probably would be. Experts say that B-52s and the Stealth bombers were not made to operate under the conditions that prevail in Iraq. Nor have the M-1 tanks ever



H.M. King Hussein

been completely tested under the conditions that prevail there.

Disposing of Saddam might not be the piece of cake, the joy boys predict on this side of the Atlantic. Didn't their mothers ever teach them not to count uncooked chickens?

And what — as I read last week — if one of our B-52s or Stealth bombers (both highly inaccurate in bombing tests) should hit one of the four sacred shrines in Iraq? In that case we'd have the entire Arab World on our necks, not a couple of little countries on the Persian Gulf.

I haven't seen any polls, so I don't know what the majority of Americans are thinking and saying. I know that most of the country's newspapers and the television networks appear to be gunning for a shooting war (maybe they are bored). But I

for one don't want to kill Arabs or see Arabs killed. I respect them, know many of whom I have admiration and affection.

I want the Arab World and Israel to get together and compose their differences; but I am convinced that if the present situation should degenerate into a shooting war, Israel would be one of the chief and immediate victims and the chances that an entire civilization will disappear in the Middle East will be increased to the tenth degree. We had better listen to Hussein Ibn Talal of Jordan while there is still time — and still a Jordan and a Middle East.

The above article appeared in the Oct. 4 issue of the Grand Rapids Press, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Islamic revival in Soviet Asia

By Genevieve Abdo
Reuter

TASHKENT, Soviet Union — Each Friday at noon, thousands crowd along Khamsa street in Chorsu square as the multi recites Koranic verses in Arabic through a loudspeaker. The sounds fill the clay huts in the narrow streets of Tashkent's old city, where Islam first made its mark in what is now Soviet Central Asia 1,300 years ago.

It is a scene typical of Muslim-dominated cities. But in Tashkent, the capital of Soviet Uzbekistan, the call to prayer symbolises a religious revival that is gaining significant momentum for the first time since the 1917 Bolshevik revolution.

In the past year, about 200 mosques have opened in Uzbekistan, the centre for a majority of Soviet Muslims, doubling the number that had existed. The first Korans in modern Uzbek — a Turkic language — have been printed, and more than 1,000 believers made a pilgrimage to Mecca this year, the first time in recent history.

The number of students studying at Tashkent's Islamic Institute, once of only two in the country, has risen from 50 to 120 this year alone.

"There has always been a religious tradition in Uzbekistan and that's why the Islamic movement is becoming so strong here," says Mohammad Salikh, a deputy in the republic's parliament.

As moderate Muslim leaders call for state permission to live by the basic tenets of Islam, radicals are demanding full religious separation from the once-atheist state. They have formed an Islamic party

which they hope will unite millions of isolated Muslims across the Soviet Union.

Soviet Islamic leaders have declined to estimate the size of the Muslim community but western publications say there are 45 million Muslims in a total Soviet population of 289 million. Practising Muslims, most of whom are Sunni, are demanding a holiday from work on Fridays, the Islamic holy day, and permission to pray five times a day in the workplace.

The revival was spurred in part by an attitude of religious tolerance under Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. A new law on religious freedom, approved last month by the national parliament is expected to encourage the return to Islam.

But some say an Islamic revival would have occurred even without Gorbachev, given the growth of the religion across the world.

The Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan, which produced resentment among Soviet Muslims forced to fight their co-religionists, and the Iranian revolution in 1979, contributed to the spread of Islam.

"The Islamic religion has grown in Central Asia because all these years the Communist party tried to squeeze religion out of people's minds," said Dadahon Khasan, a well-known poet and founder of the new-Islamic party.

"Now, we have seen that political parties can't offer anything good to people and this is why they have decided to turn to religion," he said.

The spread of Islam in Central Asia, home for 75 per cent of all Soviet Muslims, is causing some resistance among state authorities. By the year

2000, there are expected to be between 65 and 75 million Muslims, about 22 to 25 per cent of the total Soviet population.

Their great numbers are likely to affect the lives of the secular population, which fears a further spread of Islam could escalate the republic's downward economic slide.

Uzbekistan is among the country's poorest republics. In 1988, 45 per cent of Uzbeks earned less than 75 roubles a month (\$131 at the official rate of exchange), compared to a national average of 250 roubles (\$437).

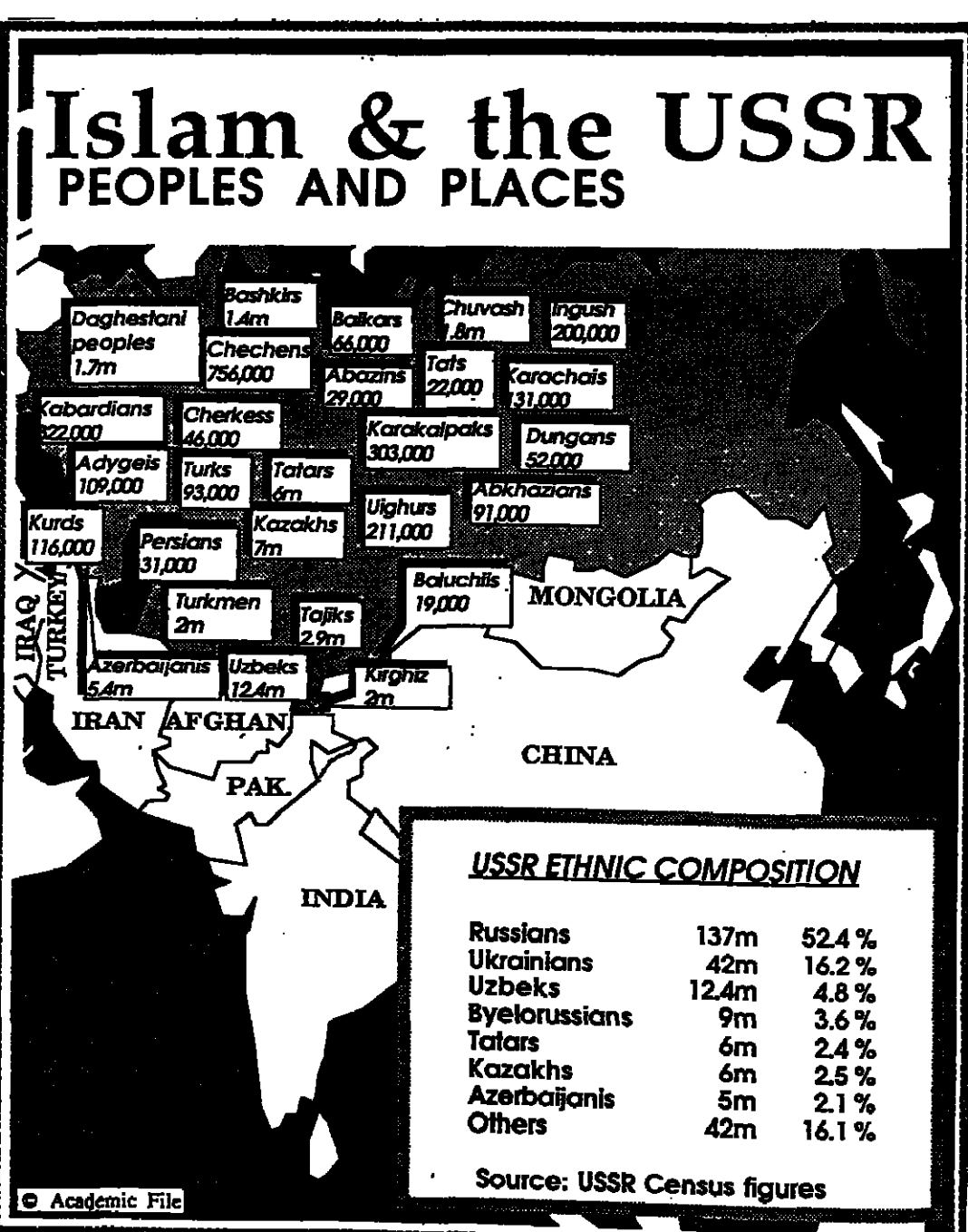
"If we adopt the changes Muslims are asking, it could be serious. Such changes could lead to disruption," says Nariaman Khassanov, an official of the Religious Affairs Council in Uzbekistan, a state-run organisation.

"We can't allow prayer in the workplace. In private enterprises, the boss is the boss and he can allow people to pray. But we don't have private enterprise," Khassanov says.

Muslim leaders plan to implement the changes they are seeking by electing representatives to the republic's parliament. Of about 500 deputies, only a handful are Muslims.

Already, Muslims have made gains in registering an increasing number of mosques in the republic. Last year, there were 83 mosques officially registered, compared with about 300 operating now.

On most days, villagers wearing traditional Islamic dress — long tunics and tubeteikas, small square embroidered caps — travel to Tashkent's Al Bukhari Islamic Institute to submit new applications.



A change in Soviet law, which used to require the signature of 20 Muslims and the approval of every state agency

from the local city council up to the Central Religious Council in Moscow, has made registration easier.

"The Communists are afraid of our religion, but Allah will show us the way, says the poet Khasan."

Israel seals off complex

(Continued from page 1)

Jerusalem's chief Muslim cleric, 80-year-old Saadeddin Al Alami, was overcome by tear-gas and carried away on a stretcher and hospitalised.

Muslim leaders said the keys were returned after dark to allow evening prayers.

They said it was the first time Israel has sealed the compound containing the city's two main mosques.

Black flags fluttered from rooftops throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip where the army confined nearly one million Palestinians to their homes to prevent the spread of protests. Others were barred from leaving their towns.

Israel's 700,000 Arabs, voicing solidarity with the 1.75 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, began two days of mourning in protest at the killings.

In Taibe village, two policemen were hurt by stone-throwers. In Tamra village in the Galilee, thousands of residents gathered for the funeral of a 28-year-old Arab killed in the violence in Jerusalem.

"You martyrs can rest in peace. We will follow in your footsteps," chanted thousands of Arabs waving Palestinian flags during a march through the town of Um Al Fahoum while police kept their distance.

In a leaflet, Palestinian leaders of the 34-month-old uprising ordered the killing of all Israeli soldiers in the occupied territories.

Police said they arrested Sheikh Muhammad Said Jamal, the deputy spiritual leader of Muslims in the Holy Land, on suspicion of inciting an attack on Jews at the Western Wall just before Monday's violence.

Adnan Al Hussein, director of the Islamic waqf, said it was the first time in 700 years that Muslims had been denied a chance to pray at Al Aqsa Mosque.

Muslims said they attacked on Monday because a group of Jewish zealots was planning to lay a cornerstone for a new temple on the site. But Israeli leaders contended that was only a pretext to divert world attention from the Gulf crisis.

Jerusalem police chief Arye Bibi said police told the Al Aqsa mufti an hour before violence erupted that no one would enter the area, including the zealots.

The violence came after a relative lull in the Palestinian uprising, and began when Muslims at the complex tossed a barrage of stones onto Jews celebrating a festival at the wall below.

Riot squads charged into the compound and, according to Israeli officials, opened fire when they found themselves heavily outnumbered against thousands.

Police said 19 Arabs died and some 140 were wounded, along with half a dozen policemen and 28 Jewish civilians hit by Arab rock-



'Temple Mount Faithful' zealots march through occupied Jerusalem carrying banners reading

'Temple Mount — the symbol of our people — is in the hands of our enemies'

throwers. Thirty-seven Arabs and five Jews remained in hospitals Tuesday, hospitals and police said. Other reports said at least 30 Palestinians were killed.

While Arab activists called a week-long protest strike in the occupied territories and a two-day shutdown in Arab towns, Israeli public reaction consisted of:

Israel radio said the Haram Al Sharif complex would be closed to worshippers and tourists until after the victims' funerals.

Police arrested Faisal Al Hussein, the top Palestinian leader in the West Bank, the complex Monday on "suspicion of inciting the violence."

The Israeli police chief, in an interview on Israeli radio, defended his forces' use of live ammunition.

"At the moment I am convinced there was no alternative but to use live ammunition given the quantity of stones thrown (at worshippers) by the wall and at police," he said.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Tuesday rejected a proposal by some members of the U.N. Security Council to send a fact-finding mission to occupied Jerusalem.

"The government of Israel is the sole force responsible for the security in Jerusalem and we don't accept any foreign intervention in the question of security in Jerusalem," he told the radio.

Yossi Sarid, a legislator of the left-wing Citizens' Rights Movement, said that the violence resulted from the failure of police to be ready for Muslim protests after the Jewish extremist group announced plans to march on the area.

"There is no doubt that had the police prepared itself for this, this would have been prevented," he said on Israeli radio. "The police didn't listen to the warnings."

There were also some questions on why fewer than 50 policemen were stationed around the area, finding themselves "overwhelmed" and opening fire with live ammunition.

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Cabinet denounces Israel's 'brutal crime'

Address to U.N.

In New York, Jordan's permanent representative at the U.N., Abdullah Salah, called on the world body and the Security Council to embark on speedy consultations for convening an international Middle East peace conference.

In an address delivered at a special Security Council session to review the situation in the occupied territories, Salah asked: "For how long can the world condone Israel's crimes and allow the Jewish state to escape unpunished?"

"The criminal and racist action committed in Jerusalem is another example of Israel's aggressive practices and repression against the Palestinian people," he said.

"The world realises that the Palestine problem forms the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict and it is a problem of a people deprived of their land and rights," he said. "If the world fails to reach a just and lasting solution for this problem, the Arab-Israeli conflict will continue to cause a direct threat to world peace and security."

Salah expressed Jordan's hope that the Security Council will take action no less firm than that taken with regard to the Gulf crisis. "Let us hope," he said, "that the council's dealing with the Gulf crisis will mark a new stage in a new world governed by new principles and criteria and that the council's concern over security and peace in our part of the world will be displayed on equal footing with regard to other issues in another part because world security is indivisible."

The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Tuesday warned of the grave consequences of Israeli attacks on the Palestinian people and the holy places.

In a statement issued after an emergency session, the Senate voiced pride in the united stand of the Jordanian people and in its ability to honestly express cohesion with the Palestinian people. The Senate said that the U.N. and the Security Council should deal with the issue of the region, particularly the Palestine question and the Israeli aggression on the occupied territories on equal footing with other issues. It called for unifying the Arab ranks, correcting the pan-Arab march, and mobilising Arab efforts to find a solution to the Palestine question.

The statement also called on all Arab and Islamic parliamentarians to stand firmly in the face of the Zionist imperialist aggression, which is aimed at obliterating the Arab identity. The statement said the Palestine question "is the central Arab cause" and noted that the Al Aqsa Mosque is the first Qibla of Muslims and the third holiest Muslim shrine.

It added that the Monday's massacre represents the "peak of all these hostilities which are now being aggravated, given the build-up of Amer-

ican and Western forces in the Gulf."

The Senate said that Monday's attack on Palestinians "is the beginning of a series of Zionist plans to evict Palestinians, replace them with Jewish settlers and to threaten Jordan's national security as well as pan-Arab security."

The Lower House of Parliament which also met in an emergency session to discuss Monday's massacre agreed to form a committee representing all blocs in the House to convey to Prime Minister Mudar Badran the views of the House on several proposals agreed upon in the session.

The House issued appeals to all Arab, Islamic and other countries to stop Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people and called for implementing all international resolutions on the Palestinian question and to protect the Palestinian people from Israeli forces.

Deputy Issa Al Rimoni called the Arab Parliamentary Union and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Union to hold an emergency meeting to discuss the serious situation in the occupied lands, to draw a plan for liberating Al Aqsa Mosque, to call the U.N. and the Security Council to dispatch international forces to protect the Palestinian citizens and for the implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Deputy Ahmad Oweidi Al Abbadi called for convening an Arab summit to support Jordan and the intifada. Other speakers who voiced condemnation of Monday's massacre were

Deputy Issa Mdanat who delivered a speech on behalf of the Democratic bloc, deputies Salameh Al Ghwein, Ziad Abu Mahfouz, Ahmad Inan, Abdul Salam Fehat, Theeb Anis, Abdul Aziz Jaber, Thawana Hindawi, Majid Khalifah, Ali Hawandeh, Ahmad Otaish, Fawzi Tu'aimah and Hussein Mjalli.

Amnesty calls for inquiry

(Continued from page 1)

strictly in accordance with the internationally recognised principles of necessity and proportionality; and that allegations of abuses are promptly investigated, with anyone found responsible for them being brought to justice.

Amnesty International said the establishment of a judicial inquiry would be a significant step towards preventing future abuses.

Amnesty International also expressed concern at the arrest of Palestinian leader Faisal Al Hussein arrested shortly before the violence began. It said it believed that, as on previous occasions, he may be held solely for his non-violent political opinions and activities. It said he was evidence that he had advocated the violence.

Bush: No impact on Gulf front

(Continued from page 1)

It said the killings aggravated the already explosive situation in the Middle East and created an additional obstacle to a peaceful solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Bush's implied rebuke of Israel's handling of the Palestinian demonstration in Jerusalem on Monday echoed in stronger terms a comment Secretary of State James Baker made Monday. Baker said then all the facts of the situation were not known.

"I'm very, very saddened by this needless loss of life and I call upon all for restraint," Bush said.

The United States has attempted to keep Israel and its long-standing confrontation with Palestinians separate from the Gulf crisis so that Washington's drive for global unity against Iraq is not undermined.

Bush suggested Iraq was becoming desperate and that any attempt to divert attention to the incident illustrated that.

He referred to reports that Iraq had threatened to fire missiles at Israel if it became involved in the Gulf crisis and added, "I notice Iraq is getting a little more belligerent."

Asked whether he was becoming more impatient with Iraq and its refusal to withdraw from Kuwait, he replied: "My patience is wearing very thin, yes."

Bush said the action would shift to the United Nations. But when asked whether the United States would support U.N. condemnation of Israel, he hedged.

"It all depends on just what the resolution is," he said.

"That's just starting up there now, and we're not sure exactly what direction it all takes, so I'd want to stop short of saying exactly what the U.S. government could support or what it couldn't support."

As representatives of the signatory groups presented the memo to the second secretary at the American embassy, the official said: "The U.S. government has already expressed to Israel that they should show more restraint."

Another memo, submitted by the same groups to the French embassy, expressed support for the "peace" proposal made by French President Francois Mitterrand.

In the biggest political multi-party meeting in Jordan since the new democratic era began almost one year ago, pan-Arab, leftist, Islamic, the Muslim Brotherhood and independent political groups gathered at the Professional Associations Complex Tuesday night to draw out a united plan of action to pressure the world community into taking concrete decisions on the Palestine issue.

Mamdouh Al Abbadi, spokesman for the Jordanian National Democratic Coalition (JANDCA), an umbrella for pan-Arab and leftist groups, addressed a press conference at noon and urged Jordanians to express their anger and indignation over Monday's events in "constructive" ways.

"Demonstrate in front of the embassies of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council," he said. He also urged the government to "train the population in the art of self-defence."

Abbadi said JANDCA had sent a memo to the leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation appealing to them to escalate the intifada in the occupied territories.

Abbadi said the "Israeli policy of terrorism against the Palestinian people" to the "NATO forces which are preparing for war in the Gulf" were linked.

As Abbadi addressed the press conference about 800 students who had broken away from a larger group at the University of Jordan marched through the Shmeisani district singing and chanting pan-Arab anti-American and anti-Israeli slogans.

Wielding black flags and photos of His Majesty King Hussein, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and the late Palestinian leader Khalil Al Wazir, the demonstrators also held aloft dozens of banners condemning American support for Israel and Israeli practices in the occupied territories.

Four demonstrations began at noon at the Wihdat refugee camp where Deputy Bassam Haddadin addressed crowds urging them not to clash with security forces.

Demonstrations also continued throughout the day in Jabal Al Nahr and Jabal Al Jofeh as well as in many towns and cities in the north.

About 250 labourers stopped work at the site of the new American embassy demanding that the U.S. send an international protection force to the occupied territories to protect the civilian population and that the U.N. implement all its Security Council resolutions on the Palestine issue.

Israel has no choice but to leave Arab land — Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

Western sources also say it has modified Scud-D missiles to increase their range to more than 500 kilometres. They are capable of carrying chemical weapons in Iraq's arsenal.

"Saddam said in his statement that, the Israel which must leave Palestine, the armies of America and its allies have to choose but to leave the holy sites of Arabs and Muslims in Saudi Arabia."

The speech included references to historical instances when the weak conquered the strong.

"You have to remember, Zionists, that the heavier your weapons, the more arrogant you are and the more sin you commit."

"The one whose sins have increased is closer the abyss," he added.

Iraq's Al Thawara, the official organ of its ruling Baath Party, said in an editorial Tuesday Monday's massacre "will not go without retaliation, and the Arab Nation is certainly capable to retaliate and it will."

"It would not have been possible without the support of the American imperialism, which provides the Zionist entity with all necessary weapons and political protection," said the editorial.

"It will turn into a massive wave of indignation, which will take the pan-Arab struggle into a step towards the liberation of Jerusalem and all other places and claim the Arab homeland from treachery and

occupation," the editorial said.

Al Thawara's editorial also criticised Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, saying Arab indignation over the Palestinian deaths "will sweep them away, even if they issue verbal condemnation of the crime."

Baghdad announced three days of national mourning for the dead and said the massacre supported its repeated demands for a direct link between the Gulf crisis and a wider Middle East settlement, in particular the plight of the Palestinians.

The chief of the Arab Department at Iraq's Foreign Ministry, Saad Ousein Hammoudi, said the big powers and the international community should act to guarantee the rights of the Palestinians.

"They should force 'Israel to recognise these rights in the same severe way that the Security Council showed in response to the events in the Gulf," he told Reuters.

He said that the massacre would not have happened if the United States had not prevented action against Israel by repeatedly using its veto in the Security Council.

"This crime reconfirms the importance of President Saddam Hussein's Aug. 12 initiative which links comprehensively the Gulf crisis to the Palestinian question and other conflicts in the area," he said.

"This crime throws the light on the core of the Middle East problem which is represented by ignoring the Palestinian people's right to self-

determination and establishment of an independent state."

The Iraqi Defence Ministry daily newspaper Al Qadisiya, describing the killings as a violation of human rights and a challenge to the international community, said Israel had implemented no Security Council resolutions.

"Where is the Security Council from its 160 resolutions on the Palestinian question, of which Israel has not implemented a single one? It asked.

"Where is the United States, which Bush says leads the world and is the protector of human rights and the defender of international law, from what has happened and what is happening now in the occupied Arab territories?" the newspaper asked.

"Where is the legitimacy, the planes, fleets and armies that were deployed in the land of Najd and Hijaz (Saudi Arabia) and the Gulf?" A presidential palace statement, carried by the Iraq New Agency (INA), declared three days of national mourning.

INA said demonstrations denouncing the "heinous crime" would take place throughout the country. "The Iraqis," it will express their outrage over the massacre committed by the criminal Zionists, the products and allies of American imperialism."

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia followed with extreme concern the reports about the crime committed by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian citizens in the city of Jerusalem, leading to the death of more than 30 Palestinians and the injury of hundreds," said the statement.

The number of reported deaths vary.

"The kingdom strongly rejects those criminal deeds and considers them a severe insult to the feelings of millions of Muslims who revere the Al Aqsa Mosque... and an infringement of Jewish immigrants in Arab lands," it said.

The statement reaffirmed Saudi support for the Palestinian people and pay consideration based on international law and humanity to the Palestinians in the occupied territories," it said.

"Japan reconfirms its basic position that the problem of peace in the Middle East should be solved through Israeli withdrawal from all the territories occupied since 1967, recognition of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, including the right to establish an independent state, recognition of Israel's right to exist; and that such a solution should be achieved through negotiations among all the parties concerned including the PLO, ultimately through the holding of an international conference," it added.

"Japan urges the Israeli authorities to exercise the utmost self-restraint

caused by the Israeli authorities," President Yang Shangkun was quoted as saying.

Peking radio said his remarks were made in talks with Abdullah Hourani, special envoy of Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat.

In Tokyo the Foreign Ministry statement said: "The government of Japan deeply deplores the fact that many Palestinians were killed... (and) strongly condemns the excessive use of armed forces by the Israeli authorities."

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Saddam speech pushes oil price over \$40 a barrel

LONDON (R) — Oil prices leaped around \$2 to more than \$40 a barrel Tuesday in reaction to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's verbal attack on Israel.

North Sea Brent blend, the world benchmark, was quoted at \$40.07 a barrel for November loading, up from a close of \$38.05 Monday.

Traders said they feared the Middle East was near flashpoint after Hussein told Israel in a broadcast that Israelis should leave Arab lands and said Baghdad had a new long-range missile.

World oil prices have doubled since Iraq invaded Kuwait because of fears that fighting would disrupt supplies.

They last edged towards \$40 Sept. 28.

London futures prices on the International Petroleum Exchange rose on the news that the Iraqi leader would be making an announcement and edged higher after his speech.

Dollar dives

TOKYO (R) — The dollar took another dive against the yen in Tokyo Tuesday but by the end of hectic trading it had recovered some of its losses. Most Asian stock markets were in a holding pattern. The dollar closed at 129.95 yen and 1.5238/43 Deutsche marks after closing in New York Monday at 130.35/45 and 1.5310/25. The U.S. currency dipped to an intra-day low of 128.95 yen in the morning, its lowest traded level in Tokyo since March 10, 1989, when it hit an intra-day low of 128.82 yen, dealers said. The dollar rose sharply from its low after the Bank of Japan (BOJ) checked exchange rates and on news that BOJ sources had said a dollar freefall could undermine the stability of the world economy, dealers said. Tokyo stocks closed lower as investors took profits on gains charted in the early morning because of the higher yen.

Things are bad all over Forbes richest get poorer this year

NEW YORK (AP) — The richest people in America also are feeling a lot poorer this year. From debt-dogged developer Donald Trump, to financial felon Michael Milken, to the barons of telecommunications and cable TV, fortunes of the wealthiest declined dramatically this year, Forbes magazine says.

Fifty-three of the Forbes 400 list suffered declines in net worth ranging from \$100 million to \$880 million, the magazine said in its Oct. 22 edition, released Monday.

For the first time since Forbes began publishing the list in 1982, the minimum net worth required to join the elite ranking dropped, from \$275 million in 1989 to \$260 million this year.

Some names such as Trump's were evicted, another symbolic boot to the 1980s era of living on borrowed money. Forbes said Trump's fortune, estimated at \$1.7 billion in 1989, was possibly within "hailing distance of zero" because of looming loans and a slow economy.

Trump, who previously has denounced Forbes for downgrading his ranking on the list, did not return a telephone call for company.

"It's not just the year Donald Trump's and some other over-leveraged fortunes hit the wall," the magazine said. "This year the entire Forbes 400 list seemed to stop going up and, on balance, start going down."

"This year all kinds of things went down: Real estate, media, banks, public stocks, private companies, you name it," Forbes said.

It said the declines "reflected a general scaling down of capital values, brought about in good part by a worldwide shrinkage of credit and sinking stock markets."

That's not to say the wealthiest are hurting unbearably. The estimated worth of the Forbes 400

totals \$272.5 billion — more than enough to erase the budget deficit tormenting Congress and have enough left over to finance Operation Desert Shield in the Gulf for years.

The total figure is actually up \$3.5 billion over last year's total, but the magazine said that's due to its discovery of previously hidden sources of wealth among some members of the list.

Forty-three names were added to the list this year, meaning 43 old names came off. Six died, including the magazine's own namesake Malcolm Forbes. The fortunes of 35 fell too far to be included.

In addition, Alfred Dreyfus Goldman, with a 1989 real estate fortune estimated at \$400 million, was removed from the list because of an inheritance dispute with his brother. William Barron Hilton was dropped because part of his 1989 total of \$1.25 billion actually belongs to a foundation.

As in 1989, the richest person on the list was John Werner Kluge, 76, thrice-married entertainment entrepreneur who made his \$5.6 billion fortune by building up Metromedia Co., a wide-ranging telecommunications company.

No. 2 is investor Warren Buffett, 60, who bought his first stock at age 11 and parlayed a savvy flair for picking stocks into a \$3.3 billion fortune.

Third is debt-financed takeover specialist Ronald Perleman, 47, who borrowed money to build an empire that ranges from the Revlon cosmetics company to Coleman camping products to savings and loans. Forbes pegged his worth at \$2.87 billion.

Others among the richest of the 400 names: Real estate-industrial magnate Henry Hillman, 71, worth \$2.65 billion; Cox newspaper heiress siblings Anne Cox Chambers, 70, and Barbara Cox Anthony, 67, worth \$2.6 billion each; Newhouse media heirs Samuel Newhouse Jr., 62, and Donald Newhouse, 61 worth \$2.6 billion each and brothers Jay Pritzker, 68, and Robert Pritzker, 64, owners of a business conglomerate that includes the Hyatt Hotel chain, \$2.7 billion each.

Also at \$2.5 billion were Walmart retailing king Sam Walton, 72, each of his four children, and William Gates III, founder of computer software giant Microsoft Corp.

More notable, however, were the people whose net worth tumbled. The biggest victim was Sumner Murray Redstone, owner of the entertainment giant Viacom International Inc., whose fortune dropped from \$2.88 billion to \$2 billion.

Others in the big-loser category included publishing-entertainment baron Rupert Murdoch, whose fortune fell by \$600 million to \$1.1 billion; cable TV mogul Ted Turner, whose worth fell \$460 million to \$1.3 billion and convicted Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc. junk-bond pioneer Milken, whose worth plunged by \$570 million to \$700 million, largely because of \$600 million in criminal penalties and losses from Drexel's collapse early this year.

Israel to put United Mizrahi under hammer next week

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli government will invite investors to bid next week for United Mizrahi Bank Ltd., the country's fourth-largest banking group with 1989 total assets of more than \$7 billion, officials said Tuesday.

M.I. Holdings, a state firm in charge of privatizing Israel's banks, said applicants must submit proposals by Dec. 20.

But the Gulf crisis and fears of war made it difficult to attract foreign investors.

"The timing is so bad, it is killing us," said an M.I. Holdings official.

Bank Mizrahi is controlled by the Jewish religious Mizrahi Holdings Association. It has subsidiaries in New York, London and Zurich.

The bank's profits totalled \$4.5 million in 1989, a disappointing 1.9 per cent return on equity.

All but a few of Israel's banks were nationalised after a 1983 banks shares crash. Then the government stepped in and bought the shares from the public.

In an effort to finance the cost of absorbing an influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants, the government is trying to sell these shares to the highest bidders.

But its pains took a dent last month when only two parties made the mandatory \$10 million deposit to take part in the auction for Israel Discount Bank, the country's third largest banking group with assets of \$15 billion.

The required deposit for Bank Mizrahi will be \$4 million because of its smaller size.

OIC ministers open talks on economic, technical cooperation

ISTANBUL (R) — Ministers and experts from 46 member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) began talks Tuesday to improve economic and technical cooperation.

"Our most sincere wish is that the Gulf crisis be resolved without resorting to a hot conflict," Turkish President Turgut Ozal said in an address to the delegates of the OIC's Standing Committee on Commercial and Economic Cooperation (COMCEC).

OIC ministers in charge of economy, meeting under Turkish State Minister Isin Celebi will discuss improved trade and commercial ties while a second ministerial group will debate technical cooperation between the OIC countries.

COMCEC has met annually in Istanbul since 1985 to promote and coordinate economic relations among members.

The meetings will end Wednesday.

Bush signs emergency spending bill, U.S. government reopens

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush signed emergency legislation early Tuesday to keep the government open for another 11 days but said there is "no assurance" Congress will reach agreement on a \$500 billion deficit reduction package.

His approval ended a three-day holiday weekend shutdown just hours before its full force would have hit the federal workforce.

"While I am not fully satisfied with the budget resolution, it does provide a framework within which the committees of the Congress can now work" to resolve the budget stalemate, Bush said in signing the legislation early Tuesday morning.

The House of Representatives gave final congressional approval to the legislation by a 362-3 margin at 1:45 a.m.

The Congress has now passed a budget resolution which, if fully implemented, would reduce the federal deficit by \$500 billion over the next five years. If achieved, this would be the largest deficit reduction program in history," Bush said.

But Bush expressed concern that, "there is, unfortunately, no assurance that the congressional committees will, in fact, produce a fully satisfactory reconciliation bill. But I repeat: I will not accept business as usual."

Bush warned that unless the final reconciliation bill includes real savings with "no smoke, no

mirrors," he would refuse to sign it by Oct. 19, the date the extension expires.

The hope is that Congress and the White House can get together by then on details of a loosely drawn deficit reduction package for the current fiscal year and four years into the future. It was adoption of that package by both houses earlier Monday that cleared the way for passage of an emergency spending bill Bush was willing to sign.

But there is no guarantee the new deficit package will pass once the details are filled in — just as there was no guarantee that the package Bush pitched on television barely a week ago would carry.

Indeed the House voted that one down last Friday, rewriting a script that played out as a long, holiday weekend of uncertainty marked by scenes of thousands of Americans being herded from national parks as their government started winding down for lack of authority to spend the money flowing into its coffers.

That partial shutdown of so-called non-essential services translated essentially to an inconvenience to tourists locked out of parks and monuments. The full-scale shutdown threatened Tuesday would have risen from inconvenience to hardship.

Still, as real as the possibility was that the government would not be able to open after the

three-day Columbus Day weekend, federal workers had been under orders to report for work as usual — to be sent home again if necessary.

The whole scenario of government furloughs and locked national monuments could recur late next week unless the Democratic-controlled Congress and the Republican White House can enact into law tax increases and spending cuts to satisfy a five-year plan to reduce the deficit by \$500 billion.

That long-term plan, passed by the House Monday and ratified by the Senate early Tuesday morning 66-33, is a broad outline of taxes and spending restraints that are similar in scope — but without the detail — of the budget pact between Bush and congressional leaders that the House killed last week.

The outlines will be fleshed out by the committees of Congress, with plenty of advice from the White House, lobbyists and interest groups, and the debate will start all over when they present their product to the full House and Senate.

The budget could force a showdown on the most fiercely fought tax issues of the Bush presidency — his demand for a cut in the capital gains tax and opposition to raising rates on earned income.

Democrats contend the wealthy should pay more and that capital gains cuts would in the opposite direction.

Passage of the emergency spending bill by voice vote in the Senate and by a 362-3 House tally ended a long weekend of tense, partisan "battles" beginning with House rejection early Friday of the original \$500 billion budget accord.

The president, who endorsed that package and lobbied for it, was repudiated by a majority of his House Republicans.

Legislators in both parties objected to proposals such as a 12-cent increase in gasoline taxes and higher fees on Medicare, health care for the elderly.

After the budget fell, Bush Saturday vetoed an attempt by Congress to keep the government open while the plan was revised. As a result, national parks and monuments were closed.

The closing was required because the budget stalemate has blocked enactment of any of the spending bills which give government agencies authority to spend money in the fiscal year that began Oct. 1.

The emergency spending bill also included a temporary increase in the national debt, to \$3.195 trillion, needed to prevent a default by the Treasury.

"We can't go on each year spending billions of dollars more than we take in," said Senate majority leader George Mitchell.

"One decade of national self-indulgence is enough. This nation can't stand two decades."

Turkey rules out rescue operation for Polly Peck

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey has ruled out a rescue plan for beleaguered British fruit-to-electronics conglomerate Polly Peck, and a Turkish bank bail-out is unlikely, government officials and bankers said Tuesday.

"Turkey cannot intervene in such a rescue plan," a senior government official, who requested anonymity, told Reuters.

"This is against the legal framework and it is also political risky,"

Tahsin Karan, the head of the main Turkish subsidiary, said Oct. 2 the Turkish government was considering assistance for the group, which needs some £100 million (\$200 million) to cover its short-term debts.

Asil Nadir, 47, Polly Peck's Turkish-Cypriot chairman and a political ally of Turkish President Turgut Ozal, secured a one week debt repayment standstill from some 60 creditor banks Friday.

Nadir bought Polly Peck for £300,000 (\$500,000) 10 years ago and built it into a wide-ranging conglomerate. In the process he became the 36th man in Britain.

But its shares plunged Sep. 20 following a flurry of rumours which included claims Nadir had been killed and that fraud squad police had visited an investment firm linked with the Nadir family.

A senior economics official told Reuters: "It would be extremely dangerous for the Turkish government to intervene and help Polly Peck."

Newspapers said Nadir was seeking £100 million (\$200 million) from Turkish banks. The government official said banks were free to examine the case and give financial assistance if they wished.

"From our point of view, this is only a commercial banking issue," the official said.

But such a rescue operation

would be expensive for Turkish banks at a time they are suffering hard currency losses due to Ankara's decision to join economic sanctions against Iraq.

Senior Turkish state bankers said a bank bail-out plan was unlikely.

"We have not received a financial assistance request from Polly Peck and I don't think this is likely," Coskun Ulusoy, general manager of Ziraat Bank, Turkey's biggest state bank, told Reuters.

State Minister Gunes Taner, whose brief covers the economy, said: "Polly Peck is a British company. What sort of money is required from us?"

He ruled out a government rescue plan but told the left-wing Cumhuriyet he would meet Nadir this week.

Industry sources in northern Cyprus said the cash shortage had begun to bite with a wave of lay-offs hitting newspapers owned by Nadir. Polly Peck has been transferring cash out of Cyprus to London, they said.

Polly Peck's interests range from tourism to industry in Turkey. Nadir is the second largest press baron and his group owns Turkey's biggest electronics maker Vestel, whose shares are having a rough week on Istanbul's stock exchange.

Americans tutor Soviets on capitalism

MOSCOW (R) — Wall Street moved to Moscow Monday as an audience of Soviet bankers, businessmen and economists got a lesson on what makes capitalism tick.

New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) Chairman John Phelan said he was encouraged by Soviet Union's new market-oriented policies, including privatisation, but said it would take time for the country to develop Western-style financial markets.

"If the model goes the way they think it will go, there is no reason that, within a reasonably short time, at least the beginnings of an exchange can be developed," he told a news conference after the opening session of a three-day seminar on financial markets.

The Soviet Union plans to set up its own stock, commodity and currency exchanges as part of President Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reform programme. But it could be some time before the legal and financial groundwork is laid.

The seminar was attended by more than a score of Wall Street executives, investment bankers, lawyers and accountants.

It prompted some probing questions from the Soviets, curious about how the markets are regulated.

John Chaisty, NYSE vice chairman and president of the brokerage firm Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette, said he was very impressed by the quality of the questions.

"But until we get the sense that there is a universe of people who really understand, it seems to me that there is a great deal of further education to take place," he said.

William Schreyer, chairman of finance giant Merrill Lynch, said he looked forward to the Soviet Union playing a role in global financial markets. But he warned of difficulties ahead.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES			
Tuesday, October 9, 1990 Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	650.0	654.0	
Pound Sterling	1283.2	1290.9	
Deutschmark	427.7	430.3	
Swiss franc	511.0	514.1	
French franc	127.7	128.5	
Japanese yen (for 100)	509.0	503.9	
Dutch guilder	579.4	581.7	
Swedish crown	115.6	116.3	
Italian lira (for 100)	57.1	57.4	
Belgian franc (for 10)	205.7	206.9	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.			
	1.9715/25	U.S. dollar	
One Sterling	1.1505/15	Canadian dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.5265/70	Deutschemarks	
	1.7200/10	Dutch guilders	
	1.2755/65	Swiss francs	
	31.34/39	Belgian francs	
	5.1075/1125	French francs	
	1143/1144	Italian lire	
	130.40/50	Japanese yen	
	5.6225/75	Swedish crowns	
	5.8990/9040	Norwegian crowns	
	5.8125/75	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	394.90/395.40	U.S. dollars	

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Rwandan capital calm, but troops still fighting rebels in north

NAIROBI, Kenya (Agencies) — Hundreds of suspected rebel sympathisers were being held in Rwanda's capital Tuesday as the government battled what it described as a force of 10,000 insurgents in the northeast.

The government said about 500 people had been arrested for questioning. But other reports said as many as 3,000 people, mainly members of the minority Tutsi tribe, had been picked up. Diplomats in the capital, Kigali, could not give a precise figure, but said hundreds were being held in jails and at a stadium outside the city.

The foreign envoys Monday were briefed about the situation in the country by Rwanda's foreign minister, Casimir Bizimungu. He put the size of the invading force at 10,000 and said 30 army troops and 200 rebels had been killed in the 10-day old conflict. Bizimungu claimed the rebels were "assassinating" civilians, but did not elaborate.

One foreign envoy said travellers from the north had told him of seeing "many corpses," but had provided no specific numbers.

Rebels calling themselves the Rwandese Patriotic Front invaded the tiny central African country from its northern neighbour Uganda on Sept. 30. The

force is made up of Rwandan refugees predominantly of the minority Tutsi tribe and many of them are deserters from Uganda's army.

In weekend interviews with a London newspaper, the Independent, the rebels denied harming civilians.

"The local people are astonished that we haven't done what the government said we'd do — raping them, killing them," Maj. Peter Bayingana told the newspaper.

In a news release Monday, the rebels said they sought to protect civilians in the battle to oust President Juvenal Habyarimana, whose government they accuse of corruption, human rights abuses and dictatorial leadership.

The rebels also warned foreign governments not to interfere in the conflict.

France, Belgium and Zaire have sent nearly 1,500 troops to protect their citizens and embassies in Kigali where street battles erupted Friday.

Nearly 1,000 expatriates, mostly women and children, left Rwanda on specially scheduled flights during the weekend. But the exodus appeared to have ended by Monday when shops reopened and people were allowed to walk around the city

for the first time in four days.

Residents reported hearing no shooting in the capital overnight and said that by Tuesday most businesses had reopened.

Bizimungu said the country was calm except for the north-eastern Mutara region where Rwandese soldiers were fighting the rebels. He claimed the invaders had sophisticated weaponry including mortars, armoured vehicles and machine guns.

Bayingana, however, denied the government claim. He said the rebels had pushed army troops out of the region and set up headquarters about 12 miles inside Rwanda.

The rebel force is led by Uganda's former deputy army commander, Maj. Gen. Fred Rwigyema, a Rwandan of Tutsi origin. The insurgents spring from the approximately 250,000 Tutsi refugees who have been living in Uganda since late 1950s and early 1960s, when they fled Rwanda to escape massacres by the majority Hutu tribe.

Many have long wanted to return to their homeland, but Rwanda's government has refused to repatriate them, claiming lack of space in the impoverished nation of 8 million.

The rebel invasion is drawing hundreds of Uganda-based re-

fugees back towards a homeland many have not seen for 30 years and which some, born in exile, have never laid eyes on at all. Walking barefoot, they carry no luggage and have abandoned jobs and families in the hope of fulfilling their dream of returning to the remote central African state.

"We are going home," they told surprised Ugandan border police at the Muvumba River frontier, before pushing aside a customs barrier and walking past a sign that declared "you have entered Rwanda."

The rebels claim to have now fought 65 kilometres into Rwanda.

Some 500 Zairean troops flown in to help Habyarimana fought a two-hour battle with the rebels near the northeastern town of Gabiro Monday, the official Zairean News Agency AZAP said.

"This invasion has joined us together," said one homeward-bound exile, Charles Gashija, who added he had abandoned a trading business in Kampala to make the journey.

He said he was from the Hutu tribe, unlike most of the invaders who belong to the minority but once-dominant Tutsi, removed from power by the Hutu in a bloody 1959 rebellion that sent thousands into exile.

Filipino troops, rebels clash; 29 killed

CATARMAN, Philippines (AP) — Government troops and Communist rebels clashed in the central Philippines and on the southern tip of Luzon Island, killing at least 29 people, the military reported Tuesday.

In the latest battle, about 300 Communist New People's Army guerrillas swooped down early Tuesday on three military outposts on the outskirts of the towns of Catarmán and San Isidro on Samar Island, and 21 people were killed in the clash, the military said.

Twenty other people were wounded and five were missing in the skirmishes near the two northern Samar towns, about 464 kilometres southeast of Manila, said Brig Gen. Manuel Lanza, chief of an army division in the area.

Lanza said the dead included 10 soldiers, four civilians and seven insurgents. The rebels also took several high-powered firearms from the outposts before fleeing toward nearby forests, he added.

On Sunday, soldiers repulsed an attack by 150 Communist rebels on a military detachment in Ragay town in Camarines Sur province, about 208 kilometres southeast of Manila on the southern tip of Luzon.

A military report said eight rebels were slain when government reinforcements backed by a helicopter gunship strafed the insurgents' position.

The 19,000-member rebel army has been fighting the Manila government for more than 21 years to establish a Marxist government in the country.

Meanwhile President Corason Aquino's spokesman suggested Tuesday that the leader of renegade soldier commit suicide as an "honourable way out" of a futile struggle against the government.

Press Secretary Tomas Gomez made the remark after hearing statements attributed to former Lt. Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan that last week's uprising in Mindanao Island was the first of a series of moves against the government.

IRA gunman shot dead in N. Ireland

BELFAST (R) — British troops shot dead a suspected IRA guerrilla and another gunman Tuesday when an undercover stakeout at a derelict farmhouse ended in a blaze of gunfire, security sources said.

Two men and a woman were arrested after the shootout in Loughgall, a tiny Northern Ireland village where British commandos shot dead eight Irish Republican Army (IRA) gunmen in an ambush three years ago.

The security sources said the elite commando Special Air Service (SAS) may have also been involved in Tuesday's military surveillance operation at a deserted farmhouse in which three rifles were recovered.

Police tear gas crowds outside court trying Bhutto

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — Riot police Tuesday fired tear gas at stone-throwing crowds waiting to see ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto after she went before a special tribunal on corruption charges.

Witnesses said at least 30 people were hurt.

Police armed with cane batons and automatic rifles blocked off the normally traffic-clogged streets around Punjab High Court. The former premier appeared to answer charges of misconduct and abuse of power.

Security was stepped up around the court to keep out emotionally charged supporters, who a week earlier stormed and ransacked the courtroom and injured dozens of people.

Police had barricaded nearly a dozen streets and demanded

dozen streets and demanded special security passes before allowing anyone to enter the court complex. Only lawyers, journalists, diplomats and human rights workers were allowed to observe Tuesday's hearing.

Ms. Bhutto sat quietly throughout the three-hour proceedings, at times scribbling notes or toying with her orange prayer beads and occasionally reading the Koran.

She said her throat was hoarse after a week of campaigning through Punjab, Pakistan's most populated and prosperous province.

About 2,000 supporters waited outside the barricades to see the 37-year-old Ms. Bhutto, but shortly before she left the court, witnesses say police tried to force them to leave and some angry supporters started throwing stones and bricks.

More Indian students burn themselves over caste row

NEW DELHI (R) — Two more Indian students set themselves ablaze Tuesday in protest against a government plan to give more jobs to lower caste Hindus, police said.

Another was reported to have hanged himself and two students died from appalling injuries suffered in earlier dramatic attempts to commit suicide by self-immolation.

At least 80 students have now attempted suicide by fire, poison or hanging. More than 30 have died.

Prime Minister Vishwanath

Pratap Singh has several times begged higher caste students leading the protests to halt the suicides.

But he has shown no sign of backing down on a plan to raise from 22.5 per cent to nearly half the proportion of government jobs reserved for those at the bottom of the Hindu caste system.

He repeated his plea at a major rally Monday night in Patna, capital of Bihar state. But Singh said he would rather resign than back down and rejected charges by critics and opponents that he had started a caste war.

2 Polish generals held for murder of Solidarity priest

WARSAW (AP) — Two retired Interior Ministry generals were arrested and charged Monday with directing the 1984 murder of a popular pro-Solidarity priest, the general prosecutor has announced.

Meanwhile, prosecutors arrested a former interior minister and six others on corruption charges.

The arrests took place between Thursday and Monday. They are part of the first prosecution efforts by the Solidarity-led government against former high officials of the Communist Party.

Aleksander Herzig said in a television interview that the two arrested in the priest's death were former Deputy Interior Minister Wladyslaw Ciastan and Zenon Platek, the former head of the ministry's Fourth Department, which was responsible for monitoring the Roman Catholic Church.

"The two generals were presented with charges that in September and October 1984 they instigated their subordinates to kill the Rev. Jerzy Popieluszko, and on Oct. 19 they directed the realisation of the murder," Herzig said.

Cambodian rebel leader asks France, Indonesia for help to reopen talks

BANGKOK (AP) — A Cambodian guerrilla leader has asked France and Indonesia to intervene to help reopen peace talks between the guerrillas and the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh.

A guerrilla radio broadcast said Son Sann suggested that France and Indonesia help break the stalemate over Cambodia's Supreme National Council, a national reconciliation body, by participating in its next meeting.

He said the Cambodians could resolve their dispute by asking the two nations — which co-chaired the international confer-

ence on Cambodia in August 1989 — to interpret the documents of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and of the Cambodians in talks in Indonesia.

A transcript of the Sunday broadcast was seen in Bangkok Tuesday.

Son Sann heads the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, which is allied in a resistance coalition with the Khmer Rouge and the forces of Prince Norodom Sihanouk in fighting the government Vietnam installed after a late 1978 invasion.

The Supreme National Council

is supposed to send a joint delegation to the United Nations, arrange the first truce in the war, and eventually guide the nation to democracy through new elections.

But its first meeting, in Bangkok on Sept. 17, collapsed in squabbling over opposition demands that Sihanouk, a former head of state and the coalition leader, join the council as its chairman.

The guerrillas have rejected the government's demand that if Sihanouk became chairman, the government side should have the vice chairmanship.

African force in Liberia to be boosted

MONROVIA (R) — A West African peacekeeping force in Liberia will be reinforced to 9,000 men so an interim government can assume control, an official of the government said Tuesday.

"We need to have more troops to hold the ground while others move forward," Levi Zangai, the interim government's representative in the war-torn capital Monrovia, said Tuesday.

There are now between 6,000 and 7,000 troops in Monrovia sent by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) as part of a five-nation peacekeeping force to impose a ceasefire in the nine-month civil war.

The force, known by its acronym ECOMOG, has tried to create a buffer between two rival rebel groups, headed by Charles Taylor and Prince Johnson, and the remnants of slain President Samuel Doe's army.

Zangai said Amos Sawyer, a lawyer chosen to head the interim government formed in August under ECOWAS auspices, would travel to Monrovia "as soon as technically possible."

Sawyer has been waiting in the Sierra Leone capital, Freetown, for security in Monrovia to improve.

"It is indispensable now to bring the political authority into the country as a complement to the military action by ECO-WAS," Zangai said.

Colombia offers concessions to drug dealers

BOGOTA (AP) — President Cesar Gaviria has offered major concessions to drug traffickers, including no extradition reduced sentences and staying free while awaiting trial in Colombia.

The property of those who surrender will not be confiscated. Traffickers have vast holdings in Colombia.

It was the clearest message yet that the government does not want to resume a war against traffickers that began nearly 14 months ago and led to more than 500 people being killed.

But the Medellín drug cartel, which has been blamed for the deaths of hundreds the last year to try to force Colombian leaders to end extradition, said in communiques in the last month it now wants full pardons.

Gaviria decreed that drug suspects who surrender will not face extradition, and that their sentences would be halved if they confess and help police nab other suspects.

It is doubtful the decree will do much toward dismantling the powerful drug cartels that sell billions of dollars of cocaine worldwide, providing U.S. users with most of their supply.

The president's plan appeared flawed in its assumption that traffickers would surrender.

Drug dealers who helped authorities arrest others could not expect to live long in Colombia's prisons, where murder for hire is routine.

In the past, traffickers threatened or bribed judges into dropping charges.

Even if a case is not dropped, it could drag on for years under Colombia's muddled court system.

The maximum sentence is 20 years. There is no death penalty. Justice Minister Jaime Giraldo Angel announced the decree at a news conference. It was issued under a state of siege that lets the president bypass Congress.

The decree is not limited to drug traffickers, but is clearly aimed at them.

Giraldo said that if a trafficking suspect surrenders but does not confess, he would lose the right to a reduced sentence, but would not be extradited.

If the suspect does not surrender, extradition would still be possible.

Tamils start mass exodus from Jaffna peninsula

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Thousands of Tamil refugees have begun leaving a war-ravaged section of the country after rebels lifted a travel ban, travellers said Tuesday.

Travellers reaching Vavuniya in the north of mainland Sri Lanka said the ban of travel from the Jaffna peninsula was lifted Monday by the Tamil Tiger rebels who control the northern peninsula.

The rebels posted billboards saying they were allowing civilians to leave for humanitarian reasons, said travellers who spoke by telephone from Vavuniya. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

More than 2,300 Tamils left Jaffna by bus Monday for the 120-kilometre trip to Vavuniya, the northernmost point controlled by government forces, they said.

Previously, the rebels demanded either two gold sovereigns or 10,000 rupees (\$250) from anyone wanting to leave the penin-

sula. Xavier Swarnabala, chairman of the Vavuniya Citizens Committee which received the refugees, said most people leaving Jaffna were heading for Colombo to meet relatives or to leave the country.

Jaffna is 300 kilometres northeast of Colombo, the capital. "Whatever their reasons, the people are happy to be able to leave Jaffna. They speak of widespread suffering like lack of food, medicines, but don't blame anybody," he said.

He said some travellers reported that the military dropped leaflets last week warning people to vacate areas near army camps and the single airfield in Jaffna. The leaflets often are a prelude to aerial offensives.

About 850,000 people live in the peninsula, which has seen the brunt of the 7-year-long Tamil war for an independent homeland in the Sinhalese-dominated island, formerly called Ceylon. About 14,000 people have died since the insurgency began.

Australian aborigines protest over land rights

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — A protest over aboriginal land rights turned violent Tuesday as a group of 400 demonstrators ripped down the state parliament's front gate and clashed with police.

A police spokesman said 11 protesters were charged with a number of offenses, including assaulting police, resisting arrest, offensive behaviour and malicious damage.

Violence erupted after several protesters scaled the iron gates of the New South Wales Parliament House before the crowd managed to rip out two sections of the gate.

Up to 50 people headed toward parliament's front doors and were met by police tactical response group reinforcements. Scuffles broke out as police battled to remove the protesters.

Police kept the protesters from entering the building. They forced the crowd back onto the street and formed a human chain to cover the six-metre-wide hole in the fence.

The demonstrators took away a section of the cast-iron front gate and dumped it in the street. The protesters, chanting and waving signs, also began throwing beer cans and rocks at police.

The march was organised to protest against an alleged lack of consultation over changes that

the state government plans in the aboriginal land rights act. The amended act was expected to be passed by the state parliament's Upper House this week.

Last month, the Aboriginal Land Council and the state government made the agreement which both said would guarantee Land Council autonomy.

Land Council Chairman David Clark called it an "historic" agreement because it was the first time that aborigines, Australia's indigenous people, were consulted in forming policies which affected them.

The state's land councils were established in 1983 as a three-tiered, democratically elected system to administer aboriginal land. They are allocated 7.5 per cent of the land tax, which predominantly is assessed from large landholders. The councils then invest the money in property and businesses, which they also administer.

State Premier Nick Greiner expressed disappointment at the protest.

"This is a minority group that feels its power base has been eroded — they're probably right about that and they are entitled to their view," he said. "They're not entitled to express it in a ratbag way."

After almost a decade's rule, Mahathir seeks another chance

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — After nearly a decade in power, Malaysia's no-nonsense Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad goes to the hustings this month for a fresh mandate to steer the country through the 1990s.

Opposition leaders say a change is needed, but even his critics admit he has been Malaysia's most decisive ruler and that for now, there is no one who can fill his shoes comfortably.

Mahathir, 64, has called for a general election on Oct. 20 and 21, a year ahead of schedule. He faces an opposition alliance determined to prevent him from seeking a fourth term — his steepest challenge since taking office in 1981.

Analysts say Mahathir wants a strong mandate before making changes to prepare Malaysia for the economic challenges of the next century.

One of his most pressing tasks is to push through a replacement for a controversial social-engineering programme, the 1971-1990 new economic policy (NEP), which favours ethnic Malays over other races.

He needs a strong mandate to ensure the least resistance to the new NEP, which analysts say would seek to encourage economic growth and foreign investment at some expense to Malays, who dominate politics but lag behind Chinese economically.

The son of a schoolteacher, Mahathir has shaped Malaysia's

political and economic fabric more than any of his three predecessors since independence from Britain in 1957.

Running the government almost singlehandedly, he has turned Malaysia into one of South East Asia's fastest-growing economies, on the back of record foreign investments and a robust industrialisation programme.

Soon after taking office he ordered Malaysians to "buy British last," angered at what he felt was the arrogance of Britain and other Western nations towards the Third World.

Almost simultaneously, he launched his "look East" policy to urge Malaysians to learn and follow Japanese management methods, and opening the floodgates to Japanese investment.

Mahathir later dropped the "buy British last" policy and decided to seek a high international profile by chairing the 1989 Commonwealth summit and getting Malaysia into the forefront of other international organisations.

He also urged Malaysians to raise their population to 70 million by the middle of the next century, saying this was necessary if Malaysia, which now has 17.4 million people, were to develop a broad-based industry.

But analysts say success has come at a price for Malaysians, and for Mahathir personally, who underwent surgery after suffering a heart attack last year.

"Mahathir is driven by a vision to push Malaysia into the big

league, but we have paid a huge price. It makes you wonder whether it has been all worth it," said an economist who was once an adviser to Mahathir.

Mahathir's mammoth heavy industries programme comprising a car project and steel and cement plants, has been criticised by economists as projects to boost his own image.

After years of losses, the projects which helped balloon Malaysia's external debt to over \$20 billion in the mid-1980s, are slowly beginning to show profits.

While Mahathir has scored points in reshaping Malaysia's economy, his politics have won little praise.

One cabinet minister describes him as being consumed by "an overwhelming feeling of self-righteousness," and analysts say he has shown little tolerance of dissent and criticism, especially in the last five years.

He detained over 100 government critics without trial to quell racial tension in October 1987 and sacked six judges a year later. He has also crossed swords with the royalty, painting a picture of himself as an authoritarian leader, analysts said.

"He has been the only Malaysian prime minister who is fully prepared to use the powers vested in him to realise his vision," said Shahrir Samad, a former minister in Mahathir's cabinet.

Sacked from the ruling United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) in 1970 for attacking



Mahathir Mohamad

the leadership, the blunt-talking Mahathir clawed his way back to the top and now runs the party with an iron grip.

He narrowly defeated his archrival Razaleigh Hamzah in the party polls in 1987. Razaleigh formed his breakaway Semangit 46 (Spirit of 46) party, dividing Malays into two camps.

Mahathir has also never flinched in wiping out his political enemies, including those in his party. And unlike other Malay leaders, he seldom forgives and forgets, UMNO member say.

"Mahathir worries how history will judge him. He will have to return to power with a strong mandate to have a chance at uniting the Malays," said one diplomat. "Otherwise, he will go down as the leader who split the community."

COLUMN

George Strait wins top country award

MASHVILLE, Tennessee (R) — George Strait, a genuine singing cowboy whose authentic twang rang up to record sales, was named Entertainer of the Year by the Country Music Association for the second year in a row.

Strait, 38, former Texas cattle rancher, scored big hits with Amarillo By Morning and Does Fort Worth Ever Cross Your Mind? Two of his albums have sold more than a million copies. Oklahoma Vince Gill won single of the year at the televised awards show Monday night, co-hosted by Reba McEntire and Randy Travis, for the smash title cut from his album When I Call Your Name.

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Strait, 38, former Texas cattle rancher, scored big hits with Amarillo By Morning and Does Fort Worth Ever Cross Your Mind? Two of his albums have sold more than a million copies. Oklahoma Vince Gill won single of the year at the televised awards show Monday night, co-hosted by Reba McEntire and Randy Travis, for the smash title cut from his album When I Call Your Name.

Parents offer to sell son

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — A couple has offered to sell one of their three sons, saying they need the money to pay bills. Phillip and Judith Walther, who live in the small town of Moe in southeastern Victoria state, advertised their three sons — Benjamin, 21 months, Andrew, 4, and David, 7 — in a local shopping centre. The family could not be contacted for comment Tuesday, but Walther, 31, who is estranged from his wife, told a television programme Monday that he "would have to get at least \$15,000 for one of them," to repay his debts. Victoria's Community Services Department was undecided Tuesday whether it would move to take the children away from their parents. Community Services Minister Kay Setches said the family's case was being assessed, but she agreed the children had suffered "some form of child abuse" through the ordeal of being offered for sale. Ms. Setches said officers from her department were briefing the family on what assistance was available through the department. "It is a matter of concern to me where parents are driven to a situation where they would make this offer, and what we want to do is ensure they know the degree of support that is available to them," she said.

'Dying man' steals \$125,000, disappears

NEW YORK (AP) — A man who fears he is dying of cancer robbed a currency exchange of \$125,000 and fled after giving most of the money to his family, authorities said Monday. Port authority and New York City police detectives are searching for Bernard Gamble, 59, of Richmond Hill, Queens, in connection with the Sunday theft from a Deak International Office at John F. Kennedy International Airport. Gamble worked for 12 years cleaning the airport. "He told the people he doesn't want to do this but he's terminally ill and has to do it," said Port Authority spokesman John Hughes, adding that Gamble had undergone a battery of medical tests last week and was waiting to find out from his doctor if he had cancer. Gamble's family told police that three of his relatives died of cancer. Police said a relative of Gamble's turned in \$75,000 and a handgun, and Gamble apparently took the remaining money with him. Hughes said he told his family he was going away and would not be in touch with them. Gamble was last seen at Newark International Airport, where a cab driver dropped him off. It is unlikely he went overseas, since he didn't have a passport.